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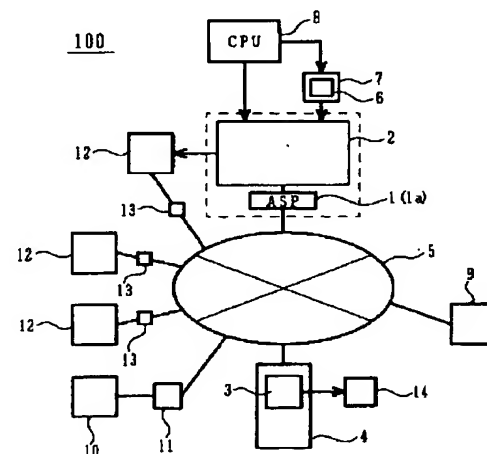
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(54) 【発明の名称】 自費出版システム及び自費出版方法

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 個人で所望の書籍を自費出版する際に、容易に且つ効率的に然かも自宅にいなが書籍の体裁を決定し、又、自費出版費用の概算も確認できる自費出版システムを提供する。

【解決手段】 書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体2と、書籍類を自費で出版したいユーザー4とが、通信回線5を介して接続可能に配置されており、事業体2には、ユーザー4が自ら自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、自己の所有する情報端末3を操作し、対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果をユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システム6を内蔵する記憶手段7と、自費出版支援システム6を実行させると共に当該事業体2内処理操作を制御する制御手段8とを有する自費出版システム100。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷製本に関するサービスを提供する事を発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されている通信システムに於いて、当該ユーザーは、当該事業体にアクセスする事によって、当該事業体が提供する自費出版支援システムを自己の情報端末に呼出し、当該自費出版支援システムが表示する各種メニューに沿って、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、必要な条件を選択する操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい当該書籍の少なくとも体裁及び費用見積り概算額が、当該ユーザーの当該情報端末上に於いて短時間で、効率的に決定され、当該ユーザーが、当該少なくとも体裁及び費用見積り概算額等と同意して、当該費用見積り概算額の少なくとも一部が当該事業体に対して支払われた事が当該事業体で確認出来た場合に、当該事業体は、当該体裁に従って、所定の書籍類をグラ刷り印刷して、当該ユーザーにそのグラ刷版を通信回線を介さずに送達し、当該ユーザーは、再度、当該事業体にアクセスする事によって、当該事業体が提供する自費出版支援システムを再度自己の情報端末に呼出し、当該当該グラ刷版を参照しながら、自費出版書籍の装丁を決定する為に、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる装丁に関する各種メニューに沿って、必要な条件を選択する操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍類の装丁の形式を決定し、それに要する追加費用も同時に決定され、当該追加費用と前記した当該費用見積り概算額の合計から当該ユーザーが既に当該事業体に対して支払いを完了している金額を差し引いた額の精算額が決定された後、当該ユーザーが当該最終精算額に付いて同意して、当該精算額が当該事業体に対して支払われた事が当該事業体で確認出来た場合に、或いは当該精算額が当該事業体に対して支払われる事が確実になった場合に、当該事業体は、当該装丁を加えた全頁を印刷し、製本した後、当該完成書籍を当該ユーザーに通信回線を介さずに送付する事を特徴とする自費出版システム。

【請求項2】 当該通信回線は、電話回線網或いは、インターネットを含んでいる事を特徴とする請求項1に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項3】 当該事業体は、自己が所有するか、自己が管理するアプリケーション・サービス・プロバイダ（ASP）を介して当該通信回線に電氣的に接続されている事を特徴とする請求項1又は2に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項4】 当該事業体が所有する当該情報端末は、サーバ機能を有する事を特徴とする請求項1乃至3の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項5】 当該事業体が所有する当該情報端末は、当該アプリケーション・サービス・プロバイダ（ASP）を含んでいるサーバ機能を有する事を特徴とする請求項4記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項6】 当該ユーザーが所有する情報端末は携帯型電話、モバイル型ノートパソコン、デスクトップ型パソコン及び通信機能を有するゲーム端末等から選択された少なくとも一つで構成されている事を特徴とする請求項1乃至5の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項7】 当該事業体が所有する当該自費出版支援システムは、当該ユーザーが自費出版しようとする書籍の印刷・製本に必要な各種の条件を階層式メニュー形式で構成されており、当該ユーザーが必要な条件を当該メニューから個々に選択する事によって、当該ユーザーが希望する自費出版書籍の体裁の決定及び概算費用を算出する様に構成されている事を特徴とする請求項1乃至6の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項8】 当該自費出版支援システムは、当該書籍のジャンル、体裁、写真、イラストの有無、カラー頁の有無、紙質、紙色、予定頁数、使用文字タイプ、頁付け形式、写真、イラストが有る場合の配置位置及びサイズ、装丁、印刷部数、等の項目の少なくとも一部が含まれるものである事を特徴とする請求項7に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項9】 当該自費出版支援システムには、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該自費出版支援システムで選択した条件の範囲に於て、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受けるか否かを選択する項目が含まれている事を特徴とする請求項7又は8に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項10】 当該自費出版支援システムには、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該自費出版支援システムで選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種のページレイアウトに関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザーに提示する様に構成されている事を特徴とする請求項7又は8に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項11】 当該事業体は、当該自費出版システムを当該通信回線上に公開しておき、所定のユーザーが当該事業体にアクセスしてきた場合に、所定の課金システムを介して当該ユーザーから所定の料金の支払いを受けた後、当該自費出版支援システムを、当該ユーザーの所有する情報端末にダウンロードを許可する様に構成されている事を特徴とする請求項1乃至10の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項12】 当該ユーザーは、自己の所有する情報端末を使用して、当該ダウンロードした当該自費出版支援システムを使用して、自己が出版したい書籍の体裁及び概算費用を確認する事を特徴とする請求項1乃至11の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項13】 当該ユーザーは、当該自費出版支援シ

システムが算出した当該書籍の出版費用の概算と自己の予算額との相違がある場合には、当該自費出版支援システムに於て既に設定されているそれぞれの条件を修正する事によって、当該自己が出版したい書籍の体裁及び概算費用を修正する事が可能な様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至12の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項14】 当該自費出版支援システムが算出した当該書籍の出版費用の概算と当該ユーザーの自己の予算額との相違がある場合には、当該自費出版支援システムは、当該ユーザーの指示に応答して、当該自費出版支援システムに於て既に設定されているそれぞれの条件を適宜修正を行い、当該ユーザーの予算額に一致若しくはそれに近い概算費用を算出する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至13の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項15】 当該自費出版支援システムは、更に、当該ユーザーが、決定された概算費用の少なくとも一部を当該課金システムを介して当該事業体に支払いを完了した後、当該ユーザーが、所定の原稿・写真・イラストを当該事業体宛に当該通信回線を介して送信し、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーから送信されてきた当該原稿類を所定の記憶手段内に格納し、所定のエディターを使用しながら、それぞれの頁を順次作成し、当該ユーザーに送信すると共に、当該ユーザーは、当該事業体から送信されてきた当該各頁毎の原稿内容を検査し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザーは、自己の情報端末で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自ら修正して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送するか、するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送して、所定の修正が当該事業体に於いて実行されるとともに、係る処理操作が、当該自費出版書籍の最終頁まで繰り返される事の特徴とする請求項1乃至14の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項16】 当該修正処理操作に関して、当該自費出版支援システムは、当該ユーザーが、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受ける事を可能とするサービスを含んでいる事の特徴とする請求項15記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項17】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該ユーザーは、作成された、或いは修正・訂正された当該各頁のサンプルを当該ユーザーの所有する情報端末の表示手段で確認するか、当該ユーザーの当該情報端末に接続された印刷手段でプリントアウトさせたもので確認することが可能である事の特徴とする請求項1乃至16の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項18】 当該自費出版支援システムは、更に、当該書籍に関するすべての頁に関して、当該ユーザーの

承諾があった場合には、当該書籍の装丁を決定する為の装丁決定用メニューを当該ユーザーの所有する情報端末に表示し、当該ユーザーは当該メニューの中から装丁を決定するに必要な条件を選択・指定出来る様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至17の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項19】 当該装丁決定用メニューは、表紙及び裏表紙のデザイン、タイトル、タイトル及び著者名に使用される文字のタイプ、タイトル及び著者名の掲載位置、写真或いはイラストを使用するか否か、カラー印刷を使用するか否か、装丁用の紙質、及び装丁に関する費用の概算等の項目の少なくとも一部が含まれるものである事の特徴とする請求項18に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項20】 当該自費出版支援システムに於いては、当該事業体は、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該装丁決定用メニューで選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種の装丁に関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザーに提示する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項18又は19に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項21】 当該ユーザーは、当該事業体から送信されてきた当該装丁に関するサンプルの原稿内容を検査し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザーは、自己の情報端末で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自ら修正して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送して、当該事業体で当該所定の修正が実行される事の特徴とする請求項18乃至20の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項22】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該ユーザーは、作成された、或いは修正・訂正された当該装丁に関するサンプルを当該ユーザーの所有する情報端末の表示手段で確認するか、当該ユーザーの当該情報端末に接続された印刷手段でプリントアウトさせたもので確認することが可能である事の特徴とする請求項18乃至21の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項23】 当該修正処理操作に関して、当該自費出版支援システムは、当該ユーザーが、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受ける事を可能とするサービスを含んでいる事の特徴とする請求項22記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項24】 当該自費出版システムに於ては、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該装丁の構成に同意した場合には、当該事業体は、当該事業体有する所定の記憶手段に格納された当該設定データに基づいて、当該装丁付きの書籍のサンプルを少なくとも一部を印刷製本して当該ユーザーに通信回線を介さずに送付する様に構成されて

いる事の特徴とする事の特徴とする請求項1乃至23の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項25】 当該自費出版システムに於ては、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該書籍のサンプルの内容を検査し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザーは、自己の情報端末で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自らの情報端末上で修正して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送して、当該事業体で当該所定の修正が実行され、又当該修正が無い場合には、当該書籍に添付する帯体を作成する帯体作成メニューを当該ユーザーの情報端末に表示される様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至24の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項26】 当該帯体作成メニューには、当該帯体を付けるか否か、当該帯体の体裁、当該帯体のデザイン、当該帯体を使用される文字のタイプ、当該帯体使用する文章の決定及び概算費用等の項目が少なくとも一つ含んでいる事の特徴とする請求項25記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項27】 当該自費出版システムに於ては、当該事業体は、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該帯体作成メニューで選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種の帯体に関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザーに提示する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項25又は26に記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項28】 当該ユーザーは、当該事業体から送信されてきた当該帯体に関するサンプルの原稿内容を検査し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザーは、自己の情報端末で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自ら修正して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送して、当該事業体で当該所定の修正が実行される事の特徴とする請求項25乃至27の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項29】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該ユーザーは、作成された、或いは修正・訂正された当該帯体に関するサンプルを当該ユーザーの所有する情報端末の表示手段で確認するか、当該ユーザーの当該情報端末に接続された印刷手段でプリントアウトさせたもので確認することが可能である事の特徴とする請求項25乃至28の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項30】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該ユーザーは、作成された、当該サンプル或いは当該サンプル及び帯体の構成に同意した場合には、当該事業体は、当該書籍の所定の部数を印刷・製本するに要する全ての自己出版費用を決定し、当該自己出版費用から当該

ユーザーが既に仮払いしている金額を減じた清算額を当該ユーザーに提示して、その支払いが確認出来た後に当該書籍の印刷製本の実行を開始し、当該書籍が完成した後の当該ユーザーに送付するが、当該ユーザーが当該清算額に同意できない場合には、上記した何れかのメニューに戻って、当該清算額が当該ユーザーの予算内に納まる様に、必要な設定の変更、訂正を行う様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至29の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

10 【請求項31】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該事業体は、自らが印刷機能又は製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有するものである事の特徴とする請求項1乃至30の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項32】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該事業体は、当該メニューを実行するためのアプリケーションソフトを所有し、当該印刷処理操作及び製本処理操作はアウトソーシングで処理する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至31の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

20 【請求項33】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該事業体は、当該印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有する複数の外部出版事業体と当該通信回線を介して接続される様に構成されており、当該事業体が、当該ユーザーから当該自費出版の要請があった場合に、当該自費出版書籍の当該各メニュー条件をそれぞれの外部出版事業体に提示して、各外部出版事業体から個別に見積書を提出させ、その中から、最も安い見積額を提示した当該外部出版事業体に、当該自費出版書籍の印刷・製本を委託する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項1乃至32の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

30 【請求項34】 通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体には、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システムを内蔵する記憶手段と、当該自費出版支援システムを実行させる制御手段とを有しており、且つ当該通信回線には、所定の課金システムが接続されている特徴とする自費出版システム。

40 【請求項35】 当該通信回線には、書籍のページレイアウトを含む、書籍の体裁を整える技術、書籍の印刷或いは製本技術の何れかに精通した専門家が所有する通信機能を有する情報端末が更に接続されている事の特徴と

する請求項34記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項36】 当該事業体は、印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有する出版事業体である事の特徴とする請求項34記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項37】 当該通信回線には、当該事業体とは異なる1乃至複数の出版事業体が、通信機能を有する情報端末を介して接続されている事の特徴とする請求項34乃至36の何れかに記載の自費出版システム。

【請求項38】 通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されており、且つ当該通信回線には、所定の課金システムが接続されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システムを内蔵する記憶手段を有しており、

当該事業体が、自費出版書籍の印刷・製本サービスを行う事をウェブサイト公開する第1の工程、

当該事業体にアクセスしてきた当該ユーザーに対して、当該所定の課金システムを介して所定の料金を課金する第2の工程、

当該ユーザーが所定の料金を支払ったか、その支払いが確実と判断された場合に、当該ユーザーに対して当該自費出版支援システムを当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末にダウンロードする事を許可する第3の工程、

当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムを使用して自己の希望する書籍に関する体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第4の工程、

当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムの決定に同意した場合に、当該見積りされた概算費用の全部若しくは少なくともその一部の支払いの請求を当該ユーザーに対して実行する第5の工程、

当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して当該請求額の支払いを実行するか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーに対して、当該自費出版書籍に使用される原稿、写真、イラスト等の原稿類を当該通信回線を介して送信する様に要請する第6の工程、

当該事業体が、当該受信した原稿類を、当該ユーザーが選択し、決定した当該書籍の体裁に関する各種の条件に基づいて、予め定められた所定のエディタを使用して、編集作業を開始する第7の工程、

当該事業体は、編集された当該書籍のゲラ版のそれぞれ

の頁を当該ユーザーに当該通信回線を介して送信する第8の工程、

当該ユーザーは、送信された当該書籍のゲラ版の各頁に付いて、チェック作業を実行し、訂正或いは変更等の修正が必要な場合には、当該ユーザー自ら当該ゲラ版を当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末で修正するか、当該修正事項を当該通信回線を介して当該事業体に送信し、当該事業体はそれを受信する第9の工程、当該ユーザーからの修正依頼情報に基づいて当該事業体で当該ゲラ版に修正を行うか、当該ユーザーから返送された修正済みのゲラ版を記憶手段に記憶させておく第10の工程、

当該書籍のゲラ版に関する全ての頁に付いて当該ユーザーの同意が有った場合には、当該事業体は、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる当該書籍の装丁を決定する装丁決定メニューを、当該ユーザーの情報端末にダウンロードを認める第11の工程、

当該ユーザーが、当該装丁決定メニューを使用して、自己の希望する書籍に関する装丁の体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第12の工程、

当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該装丁に関する当該装丁決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該装丁を含めた当該書籍のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第13の工程、

当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、当該上記した何れかの工程に戻って、上記したと同様の操作が当該事業体又は当該ユーザーの何れかで実行されるが、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該書籍の発行部数に付いての最終決定を当該事業体と当該ユーザーとの間で行う第14の工程、

当該最終的に決定された当該書籍の発行部数を基に、当該自費出版支援システムが、当該書籍の出版に関する最終的综合費用を演算し、その演算結果から、既に当該ユーザーが当該事業体に支払った金額を減算した清算額を演算して、当該ユーザーに通知する第15の工程、

当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して、当該清算額を支払ったか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該書籍に付いて、当該決定された部数の印刷・製本を実行する第16の工程、及び完成された当該書籍を当該ユーザーに送付する第17の工程、とから構成されている事の特徴とする自費出版方法。

【請求項39】 当該通信回線は、電話回線網或いは、インターネットを含んでいる事の特徴とする請求項38に記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項40】 当該事業体は、自己が所有するか、自己が管理するアプリケーション・サービス・プロバイダ(ASP)を介して当該通信回線に電氣的に接続されている事の特徴とする請求項38又は39に記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項41】 当該事業体が所有する当該情報端末は、サーバ機能を有する事の特徴とする請求項38乃至40の何れかに記載の自費出版方法

【請求項42】 当該事業体が所有する当該情報端末は、当該アプリケーション・サービス・プロバイダ(ASP)を含んでいるサーバ機能を有する事の特徴とする請求項41記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項43】 当該事業体が所有する当該自費出版支援システムは、当該ユーザーが自費出版しようとする書籍の印刷・製本に必要な各種の条件を階層式メニュー形式で構成されており、当該ユーザーが必要な条件を個々に選択する事によって、当該ユーザーが希望する自費出版書籍の体裁の決定及び概算費用を算出する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項38乃至41の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項44】 当該自費出版支援システムは、当該書籍のジャンル、体裁、写真、イラストの有無、カラー頁の有無、紙質、紙色、予定頁数、使用文字タイプ、頁付け形式、写真、イラストが有る場合の配置位置及びサイズ、装丁、印刷部数、等の項目の少なくとも一部が含まれるものである事の特徴とする請求項38乃至43に記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項45】 当該自費出版支援システムは、更に、当該書籍の装丁を決定する為の装丁決定用メニューを含んでいる事の特徴とする請求項38乃至44の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項46】 当該装丁決定用メニューは、表紙及び裏表紙のデザイン、タイトル、タイトル及び著者名に使用される文字のタイプ、タイトル及び著者名の掲載位置、写真或いはイラストを使用するか否か、カラー印刷を使用するか否か、装丁用の紙質、及び装丁に関する費用の概算等の項目の少なくとも一部が含まれるものである事の特徴とする請求項45に記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項47】 当該自費出版支援システムには、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該自費出版支援システムで選択した条件の範囲に於て、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受けるか否かを選択するメニューが含まれている事の特徴とする請求項38乃至46の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項48】 当該自費出版支援システムには、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該自費出版支援システムで選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種のページレイアウト或いは装丁に関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザーに提示する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項38乃至46の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項49】 当該自費出版支援システムには、更に、当該第13の工程及び第14の工程との間に、当該事業体は、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる当該書籍に添付する帯体を作成する帯体作成メニューを、当該

ユーザーの情報端末にダウンロードを認める第13

(A)の工程、

当該ユーザーが、当該帯体決定メニューを使用して、自己の希望する書籍に添付する帯体の体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第13(B)の工程、

当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該帯体に関する当該帯体決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該帯体のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第13(C)の工程、

当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、当該上記した何れかの工程に戻って、上記したと同様の操作が当該事業体又は当該ユーザーの何れかで実行されるが、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該帯体の印刷を行う第13(D)の工程、とが付加されるものである事の特徴とする請求項38乃至48の何れかに記載の自費出版支援方法。

【請求項50】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該事業体は、自らが印刷機能又は製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有するものである事の特徴とする請求項38乃至49の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項51】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該事業体は、当該メニュー及び当該メニューを実行するためのアプリケーションソフトを所有し、当該印刷機能及び製本機能はアウトソーシングで処理する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項38乃至50の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項52】 当該自費出版システムに於いては、当該事業体は、当該印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有する複数の外部出版事業体と当該通信回線を介して接続される様に構成されており、当該事業体が、当該ユーザーから当該自費出版の要請があった場合に、当該自費出版書籍の当該各メニュー条件をそれぞれの外部出版事業体に提示して、各外部出版事業体から見積もり書を提出させ、その中から、最も安い見積もり額を提示した当該外部出版事業体に、当該自費出版書籍の印刷・製本を委託する様に構成されている事の特徴とする請求項38乃至51の何れかに記載の自費出版方法。

【請求項53】 通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されており、且つ当該通信回線には、所定の課金システムが接続されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時

間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システムを内蔵する記憶手段を有しており、当該事業体が、自費出版書籍の印刷・製本サービスを行う事をウェブサイト公開する第1の工程、当該事業体にアクセスしてきた当該ユーザーに対して、当該所定の課金システムを介して所定の料金を課金する第2の工程、当該ユーザーが所定の料金を支払ったか、その支払いが確実と判断された場合に、当該ユーザーに対して当該自費出版支援システムを当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末にダウンロードする事を許可する第3の工程、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムを使用して自己の希望する書籍に関する体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第4の工程、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムの決定に同意した場合に、当該見積られた概算費用の全部若しくは少なくともその一部の支払いの請求を当該ユーザーに対して実行する第5の工程、当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して当該請求額の支払いを実行するか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーに対して、当該自費出版書籍に使用される原稿、写真、イラスト等の原稿類を当該通信回線を介して送信する様に要請する第6の工程、当該事業体が、当該受信した原稿類を、当該ユーザーが選択し、決定した当該書籍の体裁に関する各種の条件に基づいて、予め定められた所定のエディタを使用して、編集作業を開始する第7の工程、当該事業体は、編集された当該書籍のグラ版のそれぞれの頁を当該ユーザーに当該通信回線を介して送信する第8の工程、当該ユーザーは、送信された当該書籍のグラ版の各頁に付いて、チェック作業を実行し、訂正或いは変更等の修正が必要な場合には、当該ユーザー自ら当該グラ版を当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末で修正するか、当該修正事項を当該通信回線を介して当該事業体に送信し、当該事業体はそれを受信する第9の工程、当該ユーザーからの修正依頼情報に基づいて当該事業体で当該グラ版に修正を行うか、当該ユーザーから返送された修正済みのグラ版を記憶手段に記憶させておく第10の工程、当該書籍のグラ版に関する全ての頁に付いて当該ユーザーの同意が有った場合には、当該事業体は、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる当該書籍の装丁を決定する装丁決定メニューを、当該ユーザーの情報端末にダウンロードを認める第11の工程、当該ユーザーが、当該装丁決定メニューを使用して、自己の希望する書籍に関する装丁の体裁と概算費用の見積

もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第12の工程、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該装丁に関する当該装丁決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該装丁を含めた当該書籍のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第13の工程、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、当該上記した何れかの工程に戻って、上記したと同様の操作が当該事業体又は当該ユーザーの何れかで実行されるが、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該書籍の発行部数に付いての最終決定を当該事業体と当該ユーザーとの間で行う第14の工程、当該最終的に決定された当該書籍の発行部数を基に、当該自費出版支援システムが、当該書籍の出版に関する最終的総合費用を演算し、その演算結果から、既に当該ユーザーが当該事業体に支払った金額を減算した清算額を演算して、当該ユーザーに通知する第15の工程、当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して、当該清算額を支払ったか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該書籍に付いて、当該決定された部数の印刷・製本を実行する第16の工程、及び完成された当該書籍を当該ユーザーに送付する第17の工程、とから構成されている自費出版方法をコンピュータにより実行させる為のプログラムを記録した記録媒体。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、自費出版システム及び自費出版方法に関し、特に詳しくは、通信回線例えばインターネットを介して、所定の書籍を自費出版したいと希望しているユーザーに対して、容易に且つ短時間で効率的に書籍の製版を決定する事が可能な自費出版システム及びその方法に関するものである。

【0002】

【従来の技術】従来に於いては、個人個人が自費で書籍を出版したい場合には、予め自分で作成した原稿持って、出版社或いは製本会社に出向き、そこで当該書籍を出版する為に必要な、各種の条件や、費用に関する条件の説明を聞いた上で、自宅に戻り当該原稿の訂正、削除或いは追加等の作業を行って、再び当該出版社或いは製本会社に出向き、再度問題点の指摘、或いは訂正に関するアドバイス等を受ける事になる。

【0003】又、簡単な訂正であればFAXでも可能であるが、多くの場合、当該個人は素人である場合が多く、直接出版社或いは製本会社の担当者に説明を受けなければならない事が多いので何回も足を運ばなければならないと言う煩雑さが有った。

【0004】それに加えて、訪問した出版社或いは製本会社が、まともに話を聞いてくれるか否かが判らないという不安と当該出版社或いは製本会社の担当者から面と

向かって馬鹿にされないかという不安もあり、個人が書籍類について自費出版をする事はかなりの勇気が必要であり、従って一般的になっていないと言う現実があった。

【0005】一方、従来より、出版社或いは製本会社でも、どれだけ売れるか判らない書籍を多数発刊しても効率が悪くなる事が多いことから、確実に売れる書籍の発刊を希望していた。

【0006】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】従って、本発明の目的は、上記した従来技術の欠点を改良し、個人で所望の書籍を自費出版したい場合に、容易に且つ効率的に然かも自宅にいながら書籍の体裁を決定する事が出来、又、自費出版に要する費用の概算も確認できる自費出版システムを提供するものである。

【0007】

【課題を解決する手段】本発明は上記した目的を達成するため、以下に記載されたような技術構成を採用するのである。即ち、本発明に係る第1の態様としては、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷製本に関するサービスを提供する事を発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されている通信システムに於いて、当該ユーザーは、当該事業体にアクセスする事によって、当該事業体が提供する自費出版支援システムを自己の情報端末に呼出し、当該自費出版支援システムが表示する各種メニューに沿って、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、必要な条件を選択する操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい当該書籍の少なくとも体裁及び費用見積り概算額が、当該ユーザーの当該情報端末上に於いて短時間で、効率的に決定され、当該ユーザーが、当該少なくとも体裁及び費用見積り概算額等に同意して、当該費用見積り概算額の少なくとも一部が当該事業体に対して支払われた事が当該事業体で確認出来た場合に、当該事業体は、当該体裁に従って、所定の書籍類をグラ

40 印刷して、当該ユーザーにそのグラ刷版を通信回線を介さずに送達し、当該ユーザーは、再度、当該事業体にアクセスする事によって、当該事業体が提供する自費出版支援システムを再度自己の情報端末に呼出し、当該当該グラ刷版を参照しながら、自費出版書籍の装丁を決定する為に、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる装丁に関する各種メニューに沿って、必要な条件を選択する操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍類の装丁の形式を決定し、それに要する追加費用も同時に決定され、当該追加費用と前記した当該費用見積り概算額の合計から当該ユーザーが既に当該事業体に対して支払いを完了している金額を差し引いた額の精算額が決定された後、当該ユーザーが当該最終精算額に付い

て同意して、当該精算額が当該事業体に対して支払われた事が当該事業体で確認出来た場合に、或いは当該精算額が当該事業体に対して支払われる事が確実になった場合に、当該事業体は、当該装丁を加えた全頁を印刷し、製本した後、当該完成書籍を当該ユーザーに通信回線を介さずに送付する様に構成された自費出版システムである。

【0008】又、本発明に於ける第2の態様としては、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体には、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システムを内蔵する記憶手段と、当該自費出版支援システムを実行させる制御手段とを有しており、且つ当該通信回線には、所定の課金システムが接続されている様に構成されている自費出版システムである。

【0009】更に、本発明に係る第3の態様としては、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されており、且つ当該通信回線には、所定の課金システムが接続されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システムを内蔵する記憶手段を有しており、当該事業体が、自費出版書籍の印刷・製本サービスを行う事をウェブサイト公開する第1の工程、当該事業体にアクセスしてきた当該ユーザーに対して、当該所定の課金システムを介して所定の料金を課金する第2の工程、当該ユーザーが所定の料金を支払ったか、その支払いが確実に判断された場合に、当該ユーザーに対して当該自費出版支援システムを当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末にダウンロードする事を許可する第3の工程、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムを使用して自己の希望する書籍に関する体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第4の工

程、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムの決定に同意した場合に、当該見積された概算費用の全部若しくは少なくともその一部の支払いの請求を当該ユーザーに対して実行し、当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して当該請求額の支払いを実行するか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーに対して、当該自費出版書籍に使用される原稿、写真、イラスト等の原稿類を当該通信回線を介して送信する様に要請する第5の工程、当該事業体が、当該受信した原稿類を、当該ユーザーが選択し、決定した当該書籍の体裁に関する各種の条件に基づいて、予め定められた所定のエディタを使用して、編集作業を開始する第6の工程、当該事業体は、編集された当該書籍のゲラ版のそれぞれの頁を当該ユーザーに当該通信回線を介して送信する第7の工程、当該ユーザーは、送信された当該書籍のゲラ版の各頁に付いて、チェック作業を実行し、訂正或いは変更等の修正が必要な場合には、当該ユーザー自ら当該ゲラ版を当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末で修正するか、当該修正事項を当該通信回線を介して当該事業体に送信し、当該事業体はそれを受信する第8の工程、当該ユーザーからの修正依頼情報に基づいて当該事業体で当該ゲラ版に修正を行うか、当該ユーザーから返送された修正済みのゲラ版を記憶手段に記憶させたおき第9の工程、当該書籍のゲラ版に関する全ての頁に付いて当該ユーザーの同意が有った場合には、当該事業体は、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる当該書籍の装丁を決定する装丁決定メニューを、当該ユーザーの情報端末にダウンロードを認める第10の工程、当該ユーザーが、当該装丁決定メニューを使用して、自己の希望する書籍に関する装丁の体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第11の工程、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該装丁に関する当該装丁決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該装丁を含めた当該書籍のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第12の工程、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、当該上記した何れかの工程に戻って、上記したと同様の操作が当該事業体又は当該ユーザーの何れかで実行されるが、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該書籍の発行部数に付いての最終決定を当該事業体と当該ユーザーとの間で行う第13の工程、当該最終的に決定された当該書籍の発行部数を基に、当該自費出版支援システムが、当該書籍の出版に関する最終的総合費用を演算し、その演算結果から、既に当該ユーザーが当該事業体に支払った金額を減算した清算額を演算して、当該ユーザーに通知し、当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して、当該清算額を支払ったか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該書籍に付いて、当該決定された部数の印刷・製

本を実行する第14の工程、及び完成された当該書籍を当該ユーザーに送付する第15の工程、とから構成されている自費出版方法である。

【0010】

【発明の実施の形態】本発明に係る当該自費出版システム及び自費出版方法は、上記した様な技術構成を採用している事から、個人が、インターネット等の通信ネットワークを介して容易に且つ効率的に然かも自宅にいながら自費出版したい書籍について、その内容や体裁を、リアルタイムで確認した上で決定する事が出来ると共に自費出版に要する費用の概算も確認できるので、安心して自費出版を計画する事が可能となる。

【0011】

【実施例】以下に、本発明に係る自費出版方法及び自費出版システムの具体例の構成を図面を参照しながら詳細に説明する。

【0012】即ち、図1は、本発明に係る自費出版システムの一具体的構成を示すブロックダイアグラムであって、図中、通信機能を有する情報端末1を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体2と、通信機能を有する情報端末3を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザー4とが、適宜の通信回線5を介して互いに接続可能に配置されている通信システム100に於いて、当該事業体2には、当該ユーザー4が自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザー4の所有する当該情報端末3を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システム6を内蔵する記憶手段7と、当該自費出版支援システム6を実行させると共に当該事業体2内処理操作を制御する制御手段8とを有しており、且つ当該通信回線5には、所定の課金システム9が接続されている自費出版システム100が示されている。

【0013】本発明に於ける当該自費出版システムの更に詳細な構成及び機能を以下に説明するならば、本発明に係る当該自費出版システム100に於いては、通信機能を有する情報端末1を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷製本に関するサービスを提供する事を発行を主たる業務とする事業体2と、通信機能を有する情報端末3を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザー4とが、適宜の通信回線5を介して互いに接続可能に配置されている通信システムに於いて、当該ユーザー4は、当該事業体2にアクセスする事によって、当該事業体2が提供する自費出版支援システム6を自己の情報端末3に呼出し、当該自費出版支援システム6が逐次に対話形式によって当該画面上に表示する各種メニューに沿って、当該ユーザー4が自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、必要な条件を選択する操作を行う事によって、

当該ユーザー4が自費出版したい当該書籍の少なくとも体裁及び費用見積り概算額が、当該ユーザー4の当該情報端末3上に於いて短時間で、効率的に決定され、当該ユーザー4が、当該少なくとも体裁及び費用見積り概算額等に同意して、当該費用見積り概算額の少なくとも一部が当該事業体2に対して支払われた事が当該事業体2で確認出来た場合に、或いは当該精算額が当該事業体2に対して支払われる事が確実になった場合に、当該事業体2は、当該体裁に従って、所定の書籍類をグラ刷り印刷して、当該ユーザー4にそのグラ刷版20を通信回線5を介さずに送達し、当該ユーザー4は、再度、当該事業体2にアクセスする事によって、当該事業体2が提供する自費出版支援システム6を再度自己の情報端末3に呼出し、当該グラ刷版20を参照しながら、自費出版書籍の装丁を決定する為に、当該自費出版支援システム6に含まれる装丁に関する各種メニューに沿って、必要な条件を選択する操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザー4が自費出版したい書籍類の装丁の形式を決定し、それに要する追加費用も同時に決定され、当該追加費用と前記した当該費用見積り概算額の合計から当該ユーザー4が既に当該事業体2に対して支払いを完了している金額を差し引いた額の精算額が決定された後、当該ユーザー4が当該最終精算額に付いて同意して、当該精算額が当該事業体2に対して支払われた事が当該事業体2で確認出来た場合に、或いは当該精算額が当該事業体2に対して支払われる事が確実になった場合に、当該事業体2は、当該装丁を加えた全頁を印刷し、製本した後、当該完成書籍40を当該ユーザー4に通信回線を介さずに送付する様に構成されているものである。

【0014】本発明に係る当該通信回線5は、電話回線網或いは、インターネットを含んでいる事が望ましい。

【0015】又、本発明に於ける当該事業体2は、自己が所有するか、自己が管理するアプリケーション・サービス・プロバイダ(ASP)8を介して当該通信回線5に電氣的に接続されているもので有っても良く、いずれにしても、当該事業体2が所有する当該情報端末1は、サーバ機能を有する事が必要である。

【0016】従って、本発明に於いては、当該事業体2が所有する当該情報端末1は、当該アプリケーション・サービス・プロバイダ(ASP)8を含んでいるもので有っても良い。

【0017】一方、本発明に於ける当該ユーザー4が所有する情報端末3は特に限定されるものではないが、例えば、携帯型電話、モバイル型ノートパソコン、デスクトップ型パソコン及び通信機能を有するゲーム端末等から選択された少なくとも一つで構成されている事が好ましい。

【0018】本発明に係る当該自費出版システムに於いては、書籍を自費出版したいユーザー4は、所定の料金を支払って、当該事業体2が所有する当該自費出版支援

システム6を自己の情報端末3にダウンロードし、当該自費出版支援システム6を使用して、当該ユーザーが自費出版しようとしている特定の書籍に付いて、その形式、体裁、文章のアレンジメント、写真・イラストの配置位置、ページ数、紙質、カラー化の有無等を入力する事によって、標準的な書籍の形式・体裁が決定されると同時に、自費出版に要する費用の概算も表示される様に構成されている。

【0019】従って、ユーザーは、自分が自費出版しようとする書籍の印刷・製本に必要な各種の条件を階層式メニュー形式で構成されている必要な条件を当該メニューから個々に選択する事によって、当該ユーザーが希望する自費出版書籍の体裁の決定及び概算費用を算出する様に構成されているものである。

【0020】本発明に係る当該自費出版支援システム6のメニューの一例を図2に示しておくが、これは単に具体例の一つとして例示したものであり、他に多くのメニュー形式があり得ることは言うまでもない。

【0021】当該自費出版支援システム6に於けるメニューの一例を図2に示す。

【0022】つまり、本発明に於ける当該自費出版支援システム6に於けるメニューの構成は、図2に示す様に、当該書籍のジャンル、体裁、写真、イラストの有無、カラー頁の有無、紙質、紙色、予定頁数、使用文字タイプ、頁付け形式、写真、イラストが有る場合の配置位置及びサイズ、装丁、印刷部数、等の項目の少なくとも一部が含まれるものである。

【0023】又、本発明に係る当該自費出版支援システム6には、更に、当該ユーザーが、当該自費出版支援システム6で選択した条件の範囲に於て、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受けるか否かを選択する項目が含まれている事も望ましい。

【0024】係る専門家つまり当該書籍の編集、企画、校正等のプロに当該書籍の編集、企画、校正等を含む如何なる作業工程に於いても、かかる専門家にその一部あるは全部を依頼する様に構成されていても良い。

【0025】この場合には、概算費用及び最終的清算額が増加する事はあり得ることである。

【0026】その為、図1に示す様に、本発明に係る当該自費出版システム100に於いては、当該通信回線5には、書籍のページレイアウトを含む、書籍の企画、編集作業、及びその他の体裁を整える為に、書籍の印刷技術或いは製本技術の何れかに精通した専門家10が、当該専門家10が所有する通信機能を有する情報端末11を介して接続されている事も好ましい。

【0027】一方、本発明に於ける当該事業体は、印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有する出版事業体、つまり出版社や製本会社である事が望ましいは、当該自費出版2は必ずしも出版社や製本会社である必要はなく、印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかをアウ

トソーシング形式にする事も可能である。

【0028】即ち、当該事業体2は、上記した自費出版を希望するユーザーに対して、当該ユーザーの希望する所望の書籍を企画・編集し、且つ見積もり額を計算する迄のサービスを通信回線5を介して提供するビジネス形態であっても良く、その場合には、当該事業体2は、当該書籍のサンプル作成或いは実際の印刷作業を外部の出版会社或いは製本会社12に委託する様に構成されていても良い。

【0029】その為に、図1に示す様に、本発明に於ける当該自費出版システム100の別の具体例としては、当該通信回線5には、当該事業体2とは異なる1乃至複数の出版事業体12が、通信機能を有する情報端末13を介して接続されている例が示されている。

【0030】一方、当該自費出版支援システム6には、更に、当該ユーザー4が、当該自費出版支援システム6で選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種のページレイアウトに関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザーに提示するソフトウェアが組み込まれていても良く、当該ユーザー4は、当該プログラムを選択する事によって、当該自費出版支援システム6が作成する一つ或いは複数のサンプルの中から画面上で確認し、選択する様にすることも可能である。

【0031】本発明に於ては、当該事業体2は、自己のサービス内容である当該自費出版システム6を、例えばホームページ等を介して当該通信回線5上に公開しておき、ユーザー4が当該事業体2にアクセスしてきた場合に、所定の課金システム9を介して当該ユーザー4から所定の料金の支払いを受けた後、当該自費出版支援システム6を、当該ユーザー4の所有する情報端末3にダウンロードする事を許可する様に構成されているものである。

【0032】そして、当該ユーザー4は、自己の所有する情報端末3を使用して、当該ダウンロードした当該自費出版支援システム6を使用して、自己が出版したい書籍の体裁及び概算費用を確認する事が可能となる。

【0033】本発明に係る当該自費出版システム100に於いては、当該ユーザー4は、当該自費出版支援システム6が算出した当該書籍の出版費用の概算と自己の予算額との相違がある場合には、当該自費出版支援システム6に於て既に設定されているそれぞれの条件を修正する事によって、当該自己が出版したい書籍の体裁及び概算費用を修正する事が可能な様に構成されている事も望ましい。

【0034】一方、本発明に於ける当該自費出版支援システム6が算出した当該書籍の出版費用の概算と当該ユーザー4の自己の予算額との相違がある場合には、当該自費出版支援システム6は、当該ユーザーが希望して所定の選択操作を実行した場合に、当該指示に応答して、当該自費出版支援システム6に於て既に設定されている

それぞれの条件を適宜修正を行い、当該ユーザー4の予算額に一致若しくはそれに近い概算費用を算出する様に構成されている事も望ましい。

【0035】尚、本発明に於て使用される当該自費出版支援システム6は、一旦当該ユーザー4の情報端末3にダウンロードされた後は、予め定められた所定の期間、例えば30日或いは当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システム6の使用を完了した場合（途中で当該処理を中止した場合も含む）には、当該当該ユーザー4の情報端末3の記憶手段から自動的に消滅する様に構成されている事が望ましい。

【0036】一方、本発明に於て、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システム6を使用して作成した所定の書籍に関する印刷データは、当該事業体2が所有する適宜の記憶手段に、予め定められた消去操作を実行しない限り保存されている事が望ましい。

【0037】これは、自費出版の書籍であっても、場合によっては増刷の依頼が発生するかもしれないので、その対策上、所定の期間、例えば3年間、保管する様にしておく事が望ましい。

【0038】尚、本発明に於て使用される当該自費出版支援システム6は、当該ユーザー4が、当該自費出版支援システム6を介して決定された概算費用の少なくとも一部を当該課金システム9を介して当該事業体2に支払いを完了した後、或いは、当該支払いが確実となっていることを当該事業体2が確認出来た時点で、当該ユーザー4が、所定の原稿・写真・イラストを当該事業体2宛に当該通信回線5を介して送信し、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4から送信されてきた当該原稿類を所定の記憶手段内に格納する。

【0039】本発明に於て、当該ユーザー4が当該事業体2に送信するデジタルデータからなる原稿は、当該ユーザー自らが、ある程度、アレンジを完了したものであっても良く、又、全くアレンジをしていないべたの原稿で有っても良く、その場合に写真或いはイラストがある場合には、当該写真或いはイラストも当該原稿と無関係にして送信することも可能である。

【0040】その後、当該事業体2では、所定のエディターを使用しながら、当該原稿及び写真・イラスト等から、頁毎にアレンジを行い、体裁を整えながらそれぞれの頁を順次作成し、当該ユーザー4に送信すると共に、当該ユーザー4は、当該事業体2から送信されてきた当該各頁毎の原稿内容を検査し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザー4は、自己の情報端末3で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自ら修正して当該事業体2に通信回線5を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体2に通信回線5を介して返送する。

【0041】当該事業体2では、当該ユーザーからの修

正依頼に対して所定の修正操作が実行されるとともに、係る処理操作が、当該自費出版書籍の最終頁まで繰り返される事になる。

【0042】かかる修正処理操作に関しても、当該自費出版支援システム6は、当該ユーザー4が、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受ける事を可能とするサービスを提供する様に構成されていても良い。

【0043】その後、本発明に係る当該自費出版システム100に於いては、当該ユーザー4は、作成された、或いは修正・訂正された当該各頁のサンプルを当該ユーザー4の所有する情報端末3の表示手段で確認するか、当該ユーザー4の当該情報端末3に接続された印刷手段14でプリントアウトさせたもので確認することが可能である。

【0044】次いで、当該自費出版支援システム6は、当該書籍に関するすべての頁に関して、当該ユーザー4の承諾が有った場合には、当該書籍の装丁を決定する為の装丁決定用メニューを当該ユーザー4の所有する情報端末3に表示し、当該ユーザー4は当該メニューの中から装丁を決定するに必要な条件を選択・指定出来る様に構成されている事も好ましい。

【0045】本発明に係る当該装丁決定用メニューは、例えば、図2にも示されている様に、表紙及び裏表紙のデザイン、タイトル、タイトル及び著者名に使用される文字のタイプ、タイトル及び著者名の掲載位置、写真或いはイラストを使用するか否か、カラー印刷を使用するか否か、装丁用の紙質、及び装丁に関する費用の概算等の項目の少なくとも一部が、階層的に構成されて含まれるものである。

【0046】一方、本発明に於ける当該自費出版支援システム100に於いては、当該事業体2は、更に、当該ユーザー4が、当該装丁決定用メニューで選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種の装丁に関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザーに当該通信回線を介することなく、郵送或いは宅急便（登録商標）等を使用して提示する様に構成されている事も望ましい。

【0047】そして、当該ユーザー4は、当該事業体2から送信されてきた当該装丁に関するサンプルの原稿内容进行检查し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザー4は、自己の情報端末3で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自ら修正して当該事業体2に通信回線5を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体2に通信回線5を介して返送して、当該事業体2で当該所定の修正が実行される様に構成されるものである。

【0048】尚、当該自費出版システム100に於いては、当該ユーザー4は、作成された、或いは修正・訂正された当該装丁に関するサンプルを当該ユーザー4の所

有する情報端末3の表示手段で確認するか、当該ユーザー4の当該情報端末3に接続された印刷手段14でプリントアウトさせたもので確認することが可能である。

【0049】係る装丁の決定操作に於いても、当該修正処理操作に関して、当該自費出版支援システム6は、当該ユーザー4が、書籍の製本に関する専門家のアドバイスを受ける事を可能とするサービスを提供する様に構成する事も出来る。

【0050】次いで、当該自費出版システム100に於ては、当該ユーザー4が、当該装丁の構成に同意した場合には、当該事業体2は、当該事業体2が有する所定の記憶手段に格納された当該設定データに基づいて、当該装丁付きの書籍のサンプル50を少なくとも一部を印刷製本して当該ユーザー4に通信回線5を介せずに送付する様に構成されている。

【0051】次いで、本発明に於ける当該自費出版システム100に於ては、当該ユーザー4が、当該装丁を含む書籍のサンプルの内容を検査し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザー4は、自己の情報端末3で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分を自らの情報端末3上で修正して当該事業体2に通信回線5を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体2に通信回線5を介して返送して、当該事業体で当該所定の修正が実行される。

【0052】係る工程に於ける修正は、当該装丁に関する再訂正と、当該書籍の内容そのものに関する再訂正となるので、いずれの場合でも、追加料金が加算される事が多い。

【0053】その後、当該修正が無い場合には、当該書籍に添付する帯体を作成する帯体作成メニューが当該ユーザー4の情報端末3に表示される様に構成する事も可能である。

【0054】当該帯体作成メニューには、図2にもその一例が示されている様に、当該帯体を付けるか否か、当該帯体の体裁、当該帯体のデザイン、当該帯体を使用される文字のタイプ、当該帯体使用する文章の決定及び概算費用等の項目が少なくとも一つ含んでいる事が望ましい。

【0055】当該自費出版システム6に於ては、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4が、当該帯体作成メニューで選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種の帯体に関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザー4に提示する様に構成されている事も望ましい。

【0056】そして、当該ユーザー4は、当該事業体2から送信されてきた当該帯体に関するサンプルの原稿内容进行检查し、問題がないか否かを判断し、問題があるか、訂正の希望がある場合には、当該ユーザーは、自己の情報端末で当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分

を自ら修正して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送するか、当該問題があるか、訂正の希望がある部分に付いて訂正コメントを付して当該事業体に通信回線を介して返送して、当該事業体で当該所定の修正が実行される。

【0057】その後、当該自費出版システム100に於いては、当該ユーザー4は、作成された、或いは修正・訂正された当該帯体に関するサンプルを当該ユーザーの所有する情報端末3の表示手段で確認するか、当該ユーザー4の当該情報端末3に接続された印刷手段14でプリントアウトさせたもので確認することが可能である。

【0058】本発明に於ける当該自費出版システム100に於いては、当該ユーザー4は、作成された、帯体に同意した場合には、当該事業体2は、当該事業体2が有する所定の記憶手段に格納された当該設定データに基づいて、当該帯体のサンプル60を少なくとも一部を印刷して当該ユーザー4に通信回線5を介さずに送付する様に構成されていても良い。

【0059】最後に、当該ユーザーが、当該装丁を含む当該書籍の及び帯体の構成に同意した場合には、当該事業体2は、当該書籍の所定の部数を印刷・製本するに要する全ての自己出版費用を決定し、当該自己出版費用から当該ユーザーが既に仮払いしている金額を減じた清算額を当該ユーザー4に提示して、当該ユーザーが当該費用に同意するか否かを判断し、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4によるその支払いが確認出来た後、或いはその支払いが確実である事を確認した後に、当該書籍の印刷製本の実行を開始し、当該書籍40が完成した後、その書籍40を郵送若しくは宅急便等で当該ユーザー4に送付するが、当該ユーザー4が当該清算額に同意できない場合には、上記した何れかのメニューに戻って、当該清算額が当該ユーザーの予算内に納まる様に、必要な設定の変更、訂正を行う様に構成されているものである。

【0060】本発明に於ける当該自費出版システム100に於ける他の具体例としては、当該事業体2は、当該印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有する複数の外部出版事業体12と当該通信回線5を介して接続される様に構成されており、当該事業体2が、当該ユーザー4から当該自費出版の要請があった場合に、当該自費出版書籍の当該各メニュー条件をそれぞれの外部出版事業体12に提示して、各外部出版事業体12から個別に見積書を提出させ、その中から、最も安い見積額を提示した当該外部出版事業体12に、当該自費出版書籍の印刷・製本を委託する様に構成されている事も可能である。

【0061】次に、本発明に係る当該自費出版方法の具体例を図面を参照しながら詳細に説明する。

【0062】即ち、上記の説明により明らかな様に、本発明に係る当該自費出版方法は、基本的には、図3に示す様に、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行を主たる業務とする事業体2と、通信機能を

有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザー4とが、適宜の通信回線5を介して互いに接続可能に配置されており、且つ当該通信回線5には、所定の課金システム9が接続されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4が自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザー4の所有する当該情報端末3を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザー4の希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザー4の情報端末3の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システム6を内蔵する記憶手段7を有しており、当該事業体2が、自費出版書籍の印刷・製本サービスを行う事をウェブサイト公開する第1の工程(ステップ(S1))、当該事業体2にアクセスしてきた当該ユーザー4に対して、当該所定の課金システム9を介して所定の料金を課金する第2の工程(ステップ(S2))、当該ユーザー4が所定の料金を支払ったか、その支払いが確実と判断された場合に、当該ユーザー4に対して当該自費出版支援システム6の内、特に体裁部分の編集に関する部分を当該ユーザー4の所有する当該情報端末3にダウンロードする事を許可する第3の工程(ステップ(S3))、当該ユーザー4が当該自費出版支援システム6を使用して自己の希望する書籍に関する体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第4の工程(ステップ(S4))、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4が当該自費出版支援システム6の決定に同意した場合に、当該見積られた概算費用の全部若しくは少なくともその一部の支払いの請求を当該ユーザーに対して実行する第5の工程(ステップ(S5))、当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して当該請求額の支払いを実行するか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザーに対して、当該自費出版書籍に使用される原稿、写真、イラスト等の原稿類を当該通信回線5を介して送信する様に要請する第6の工程(ステップ(S6))、当該事業体2が、当該受信した原稿類を、当該ユーザー4が選択し、決定した当該書籍の体裁に関する各種の条件に基づいて、予め定められた所定のエディタを使用して、編集作業を開始する第7の工程(ステップ(S7))、当該事業体2は、編集された当該書籍のゲラ版のそれぞれの頁を当該ユーザーに当該通信回線5を介して送信する第8の工程(ステップ(S8))、当該ユーザー4は、送信された当該書籍のゲラ版の各頁に付いて、チェック作業を実行し、訂正或いは変更等の修正が必要な場合には、当該ユーザー自ら当該ゲラ版を当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末で修正するか、当該修正事項を当該通信回線5を介して当該事業体2に送信し、当該事業体2はそれを受信する第9の工程(ステップ(S9))、当該ユーザー4からの修正依

頼情報に基づいて当該事業体2で当該ゲラ版に修正を行うか、当該ユーザーから返送された修正済みのゲラ版を記憶手段に記憶させておく第10の工程(ステップ(S10))、当該書籍のゲラ版に関する全ての頁に付いて当該ユーザー4の同意が有った場合には、当該事業体2は、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる当該書籍の装丁を決定する装丁決定メニューを、当該ユーザー4の情報端末3にダウンロードを認める第11の工程(ステップ(S11))、当該ユーザー4が、当該装丁決定メニューを使用して、自己の希望する書籍に関する装丁の体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第12の工程(ステップ(S12))、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4が当該装丁に関する当該装丁決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該装丁を含めた当該書籍のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第13の工程(ステップ(S13))、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、当該上記した何れかの工程に戻って、上記したと同様の操作が当該事業体又は当該ユーザーの何れかで実行されるが、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該書籍の発行部数に付いての最終決定を当該事業体と当該ユーザーとの間で行う第14の工程(ステップ(S14))、当該最終的に決定された当該書籍の発行部数を基に、当該自費出版支援システムが、当該書籍の出版に関する最終的综合費用を演算し、その演算結果から、既に当該ユーザー4が当該事業体に支払った金額を減算した清算額を演算して、当該ユーザー4に通知する第15の工程(ステップ(S15))、当該ユーザー4が当該課金システム9を介して、当該清算額を支払ったか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体2は、当該書籍に付いて、当該決定された部数の印刷・製本を実行する第16の工程(ステップ(S16))、及び完成された当該書籍40を当該ユーザー4に送付する第17の工程(ステップ(S17))とから構成されている。

【0063】本発明に於ける上記した自費出版方法に於いては、更に、当該自費出版支援システム6には、当該ユーザー4が、当該自費出版支援システム6で選択した条件の範囲に於て、所定の演算を実行し、一つ若しくは複数種のページレイアウト或いは装丁に関するサンプルを作成し、当該ユーザー4に提示する様に構成されている事も望ましい。

【0064】更に、当該自費出版支援システム6には、図4に示す様に、当該第13の工程及び第14の工程との間に、当該事業体2は、当該自費出版支援システム6に含まれる当該書籍に添付する帯体を作成する帯体作成メニューを、当該ユーザーの情報端末にダウンロードを認める第13(A)の工程(ステップ(S13A))、当該ユーザー4が、当該帯体決定メニューを使用して、

自己の希望する書籍に添付する帯体の体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザー4が当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第13(B)の工程(ステップ(S13B))、当該事業体2は、当該ユーザー4が当該帯体に関する当該帯体決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該帯体のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第13(C)の工程(ステップ(S13C))、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、ユーザーは、自分で当該帯体の体裁条件を修正するか、その修正案を事業体2に送信するか、又はプロによるアドバイスを受けるか、当該自費出版支援システム6によるサンプルを要求するかの何れかのメニュー或いは複数のメニューが実行される第13(D)の工程(ステップ(S13D))、その後、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該帯体の体裁が決定され所定の記憶手段に記憶しておく第13(E)の工程(ステップ(S13E))が実行されるという工程が付加されるものであっても良い。

【0065】尚、本発明に係る当該自費出版方法に於いて、上記した専門家によるアドバイスのリクエストは、上記した各工程のいずれの段階でも使用しえる様に構成しておく事が望ましい。

【0066】勿論、当該専門家によるアドバイス結果に対する料金は、その内容によって異なる事は言うまでもない。

【0067】上記した本発明に係る当該自費出版システムのより具体的な操作手順の例を図5及び図6を参照しながら説明する。

【0068】即ち、スタート後、ステップ(ST-1)において、当該事業体2がホームページ等で当該事業体2の自費出版システムサービスを公開し、ステップ(ST-2)に於いて、自費出版を希望するユーザーが当該ホームページにアクセスしてくると、当該事業体2は、ステップ(ST-3)に於いて当該ユーザーに対して所定の料金を請求し、ステップ(ST-4)に於いて当該ユーザーから所定の入金があった場合にはステップ(ST-5)に於いて、当該事業体2が所有する自費出版支援システムのソフトウェアの内特に体裁部分の選択決定ソフトを当該ユーザー4の情報端末にダウンロードする。

【0069】その後、ステップ(ST-6)に於いて、ユーザー4側で当該自費出版支援システムを使用して、当該書籍の各頁について所定のメニューに従ってそれぞれの条件項目について選択・指定操作が行われ、一次的な体裁に関するサンプルが表示される事が望ましくまた、概算費用の見積り額も表示される事が望ましい。

【0070】ステップ(ST-7)に於いて、当該ユーザーがプロのアドバイスを求めるか否かが判断され、YESであればステップ(ST-8)に進み、当該ユーザー

一の要求に対して、所定の専門家が所定の案を作成してステップ(S T-6)に戻り、ステップ(S T-7)でNOであれば、ステップ(S T-9)に進んで、当該ユーザーが、当該事業体2が予め定められた提供しているサンプルを利用するか否かが判断され、YESであれば、ステップ(S T-10)に於いて当該事業体2は、当該ユーザーの指定・選択した各条件を参照して、当該事業体2が予め用意しているプログラムを使用して、好ましいサンプルを少なくとも一つ作成してユーザーに開示し、ステップ(S T-6)に戻って上記の各工程がくりかえされ、ステップ(S T-9)でNOであれば、ステップ(S T-11)に於いて、当該ユーザーが自分で修正するか、修正案を事業体に送信するかが判断され、自分で修正する場合には、ステップ(S T-6)に戻って上記の各工程がくりかえされ、ステップ(S T-12)に於いて、一応完成された当該書籍の各頁に付いての編集内容に対してユーザーが同意するか否かが判断され、NOであれば、ステップ(S T-6)に戻って、上記した各工程が繰り返され、YESであれば、ステップ(S T-13)に進み、当該体裁の編集に要する見積り金額を算出してユーザーに請求する。

【0071】その後、ステップ(S T-14)に於いて、当該ユーザーから当該見積り概算金額の少なくとも一部が入力されたか、入金が確実である場合に、ステップ(S T-15)に進み、当該ユーザーから原稿等(原稿、写真、イラスト等)の送信を受け、ステップ(S T-16)に於いて、当該原稿等を基に、既に決定された体裁条件を参照しながら、当該事業体2が、所定のエディタを使用して各頁の編集作業を実行する。

【0072】その後、ステップ(S T-17)に於いて当該書籍の各頁のゲラ刷りを当該ユーザーに通信回線5を介して送信し、ステップ(S T-18)に於いて当該ユーザーが当該ゲラ刷をユーザー側情報端末に接続されている印刷器を使用してプリントアウトしてその内容をチェックする。

【0073】次いで、ステップ(S T-19)に進み、当該ユーザーが当該ゲラ刷に関して訂正が有るかないかを判断し、訂正有り(YES)の場合には、ステップ(S T-20)に進んで、当該ユーザーが、訂正箇所を当該事業体に指示するか、当該ユーザー自身で修正した原稿を当該事業体に何れも通信回線を介して通知し、ステップ(S T-16)に戻って上記した各工程が繰り返される。

【0074】尚、係るステップ(S T-20)に於いては、ステップ(S T-7)、ステップ(S T-9)と同様に、プロのアドバイス或いは当該事業体の提供するサンプルの請求を行う事も可能である。

【0075】次いで、ステップ(S T-21)に於いて、全ての頁に関して修正が無いかが判断され、NOであれば、ステップ(S T-19)に戻り、YESで

あればステップ(S T-22)に進んで、当該自費出版支援システムの内、装丁に関する設定システムをユーザー側情報端末にダウンロードさせた後、ステップ(S T-23)に進んで、当該ユーザーによる当該装丁に関する体裁の選定・指定操作が実行される。

【0076】その後、ステップ(S T-24)に於いて、当該ユーザーがプロのアドバイスを求めるか否かが判断され、YESであればステップ(S T-25)に進み、当該ユーザーの要求に対して、所定の専門家が所定の案を作成してステップ(S T-23)に戻り、ステップ(S T-24)でNOであれば、ステップ(S T-26)に進んで、当該ユーザーが、当該事業体2が予め定められた提供しているサンプルを利用するか否かが判断され、YESであれば、ステップ(S T-27)に於いて当該事業体2は、当該ユーザーの指定・選択した各条件を参照して、当該事業体2が予め用意しているプログラムを使用して、好ましい装丁に関するサンプルを少なくとも一つ作成してユーザーに開示し、ステップ(S T-23)に戻って上記の各工程がくりかえされ、ステップ(S T-26)でNOであれば、ステップ(S T-28)に於いて、当該ユーザーが自分で修正するか、修正案を事業体に送信するかが判断され、自分で修正する場合には、ステップ(S T-23)に戻って上記の各工程がくりかえされ、ステップ(S T-28)に於いて修正が無い場合には、ステップ(S T-29)に進んで、一応完成された当該装丁に付いての編集内容に対してユーザーが同意するか否かが判断され、NOであれば、ステップ(S T-23)に戻って、上記した各工程が繰り返され、YESであれば、ステップ(S T-30)に進み、当該装丁のサンプルと前記工程で同意が得られている各頁のサンプルを一体化して総合サンプルを少なくとも一部を作成して当該ユーザーに送付し、ステップ(S T-31)に於いて、当該サンプルに対してユーザーが同意するか否かが判断され、同意出来ない場合には、再びステップ(S T-23)或いはステップ(S T-19)に戻り上記した各工程が繰り返され、YESであれば、ステップ(S T-32)に進んで、当該書籍の発行部数を最終的に決定する。

【0077】その後、ステップ(S T-33)に進んで、帯体に関する自費出版支援システムが当該ユーザー側情報端末ダウンロードされ、ステップ(S T-34)に於いて、当該ユーザーによって帯体の体裁の決定操作が実行されると同時に当該帯体の見積り概算額が決定され、且つ当該事業体に於いてその編集作業が実行される。

【0078】次いでステップ(S T-35)に進み、当該ユーザーがプロのアドバイスを求めるか否かが判断され、YESであればステップ(S T-36)に進み、当該ユーザーの要求に対して、所定の専門家が所定の案を作成してステップ(S T-34)に戻り、ステップ(S

T-35)でNOであれば、ステップ(ST-37)に進んで、当該ユーザーが、当該事業体2が予め定められた提供しているサンプルを利用するか否かが判断され、YESであれば、ステップ(ST-38)に於いて当該事業体2は、当該ユーザーの指定・選択した各条件を参照して、当該事業体2が予め用意しているプログラムを使用して、好ましい装丁に関するサンプルを少なくとも一つ作成してユーザーに開示し、ステップ(ST-34)に戻って上記の各工程がくりかえされ、ステップ(ST-37)でNOであれば、ステップ(ST-39)に於いて、当該ユーザーが自分で修正するか、修正案を事業体に送信するか判断され、自分で修正する場合には、ステップ(ST-34)に戻って上記の各工程がくりかえされ、ステップ(ST-39)に於いて修正が無い場合には、ステップ(ST-40)に進み、当該作成された装丁の体裁のデータにユーザーが同意出来ない場合には、ステップ(ST-34)に戻って、上記した各工程が繰り返され、YESであれば、ステップ(ST-41)に於いて当該帯体のサンプルを作成して当該ユーザーに送付し、ステップ(ST-42)に於いてユーザーが同意出来ない場合には、ステップ(ST-34)に戻って、上記した各工程が繰り返され、YESであれば、ステップ(ST-43)に進み、最終的な精算金額を算出して、ステップ(ST-44)でその結果をユーザーに通知する。

【0079】その後、ステップ(ST-45)に於いて、当該ユーザーが当該精算金額を支払った事が確認された後、ステップ(ST-46)に於いて所定の部数の書籍の印刷・製本を実行し、ステップ(ST-47)に於いて当該書籍を当該ユーザーに送付して終了する。

【0080】本発明に係る当該自費出版方法に於いては、当該事業体2は、自らが印刷機能又は製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有するものであっても良く、又、当該事業体2は、当該メニュー及び当該メニューを実行するためのアプリケーションソフトを所有し、当該印刷機能及び製本機能はアウトソーシングで処理する様に構成されているもので有っても良い。

【0081】一方、本発明に於ける当該自費出版方法に於いては、当該事業体2は、当該印刷機能及び製本機能の少なくとも何れかを有する複数の外部出版事業体12と当該通信回線5を介して接続される様に構成されており、当該事業体2が、当該ユーザー4から当該自費出版の要請があった場合に、当該自費出版書籍の当該各メニュー条件をそれぞれの外部出版事業体12に提示して、各外部出版事業体12から見積もり書を提出させ、その中から、最も安い見積もり額を提示した当該外部出版事業体12に、当該自費出版書籍の印刷・製本を委託する様に構成する事も可能である。

【0082】又、本発明に於ける他の態様としては、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類の印刷発行

を主たる業務とする事業体と、通信機能を有する情報端末を有し、且つ書籍類を自費で出版する事を希望しているユーザーとが、適宜の通信回線を介して互いに接続可能に配置されており、且つ当該通信回線には、所定の課金システムが接続されている通信システムに於いて、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが自費出版したい書籍の内容・構成を基に、当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末を操作し、必要な条件を対話形式で選択する処理操作を行う事によって、当該ユーザーの希望する自費出版書籍の体裁並びに費用見積り概算額が短時間で演算され、その結果を当該ユーザーの情報端末の表示手段に表示出来る様に構成された自費出版支援システムを内蔵する記憶手段を有しており、当該事業体が、自費出版書籍の印刷・製本サービスを行う事をウェブサイトにて公開する第1の工程、

【0083】当該事業体にアクセスしてきた当該ユーザーに対して、当該所定の課金システムを介して所定の料金を課金する第2の工程、

【0084】当該ユーザーが所定の料金を支払ったか、その支払いが確実と判断された場合に、当該ユーザーに対して当該自費出版支援システムを当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末にダウンロードする事を許可する第3の工程、

【0085】当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムを使用して自己の希望する書籍に関する体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第4の工程、

【0086】当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該自費出版支援システムの決定に同意した場合に、当該見積られた概算費用の全部若しくは少なくともその一部の支払いの請求を当該ユーザーに対して実行する第5の工程、

【0087】当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して当該請求額の支払いを実行するか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該ユーザーに対して、当該自費出版書籍に使用される原稿、写真、イラスト等の原稿類を当該通信回線を介して送信する様に要請する第6の工程、

【0088】当該事業体が、当該受信した原稿類を、当該ユーザーが選択し、決定した当該書籍の体裁に関する各種の条件に基づいて、予め定められた所定のエディタを使用して、編集作業を開始する第7の工程、

【0089】当該事業体は、編集された当該書籍のグラ版のそれぞれの頁を当該ユーザーに当該通信回線を介して送信する第8の工程、

【0090】当該ユーザーは、送信された当該書籍のグラ版の各頁に付いて、チェック作業を実行し、訂正或いは変更等の修正が必要な場合には、当該ユーザー自ら当該グラ版を当該ユーザーの所有する当該情報端末で修正するか、当該修正事項を当該通信回線を介して当該事業体に送信し、当該事業体はそれを受信する第9の工程、

【0091】当該ユーザーからの修正依頼情報に基づいて当該事業体で当該ゲラ版に修正を行うか、当該ユーザーから返送された修正済みのゲラ版を記憶手段に記憶させておく第10の工程、

【0092】当該書籍のゲラ版に関する全ての頁に付いて当該ユーザーの同意が有った場合には、当該事業体は、当該自費出版支援システムに含まれる当該書籍の装丁を決定する装丁決定メニューを、当該ユーザーの情報端末にダウンロードを認める第11の工程、

【0093】当該ユーザーが、当該装丁決定メニューを使用して、自己の希望する書籍に関する装丁の体裁と概算費用の見積もり額が演算され、当該ユーザーが当該演算結果に対して同意を与える期間の間待機する第12の工程、

【0094】当該事業体は、当該ユーザーが当該装丁に関する当該装丁決定メニューの決定に同意した場合に、当該装丁を含めた当該書籍のサンプルを少なくとも一部作成し、当該ユーザーに送付する第13の工程、

【0095】当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意しない場合には、当該上記した何れかの工程に戻って、上記したと同様の操作が当該事業体又は当該ユーザーの何れかで実行されるが、当該サンプルに対して当該ユーザーが同意した場合には、当該書籍の発行部数に付いての最終決定を当該事業体と当該ユーザーとの間で行う第14の工程、

【0096】当該最終的に決定された当該書籍の発行部数を基に、当該自費出版支援システムが、当該書籍の出版に関する最終的総合費用を演算し、その演算結果から、既に当該ユーザーが当該事業体に支払った金額を減算した清算額を演算して、当該ユーザーに通知する第15の工程、

【0097】当該ユーザーが当該課金システムを介して、当該清算額を支払ったか、その支払いの実行が確実であると判断した場合には、当該事業体は、当該書籍に付いて、当該決定された部数の印刷・製本を実行する第16の工程、

【0098】及び完成された当該書籍を当該ユーザーに送付する第17の工程、

【0099】とから構成されている自費出版方法をコンピュータにより実行させる為のプログラムを記録した記録媒体である。

【0100】

【発明の効果】本発明に係る当該自費出版方法及び当該自費出版システムは、上記した様な技術構成を採用していることから、第1の効果としては、個人で所望の書籍を

自費出版したい場合に、容易に且つ効率的に然かも自宅にいながら書籍の体裁を決定する事が出来、又、自費出版に要する費用の概算も確認できる自費出版システム得られるものである。

【0101】又、第2の効果としては、当該個人が、一端の作家、著述家、写真家になった気分が味わえると共に、何等かの記念品として当該書籍を配布することが出来る。

【0102】更に、第3の効果としては、出版社としても、確実に収入のある本を製作する事が可能となり、売れない本を製作するよりもリスクを低減でき効率的な事業を行う事が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】図1は、本発明の自費出版システムの一具体例の構成を示すブロックダイアグラムである。

【図2】図2は、本発明の自費出版システムに於ける当該自費出版支援システムで使用されるメニューの一例を示す図である。

【図3】図3は、本発明に於ける自費出版方法に於ける操作手順の一例を説明するフローチャートである。

【図4】図4は、本発明に於ける自費出版方法に於ける操作手順の一例を説明するフローチャートである。

【図5】図5は、本発明に於ける自費出版方法の一具体例に於ける操作手順の一例を説明するフローチャートである。

【図6】図6は、本発明に於ける自費出版方法の一具体例に於ける操作手順の一例を説明するフローチャートである。

【符号の説明】

1…事業体側情報端末、ASP

2…事業体

3…ユーザー側情報端末

4…ユーザー

5…通信回線

6…自費出版支援システム

7…記憶手段

8…制御手段

9…課金システム

10…専門家

11…専門家側情報端末

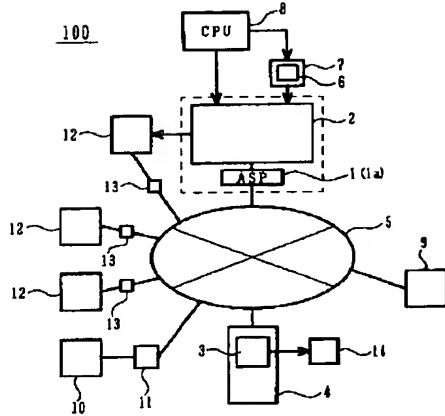
12…出版社、製本会社、印刷会社

13…出版社、製本会社、印刷会社側情報端末

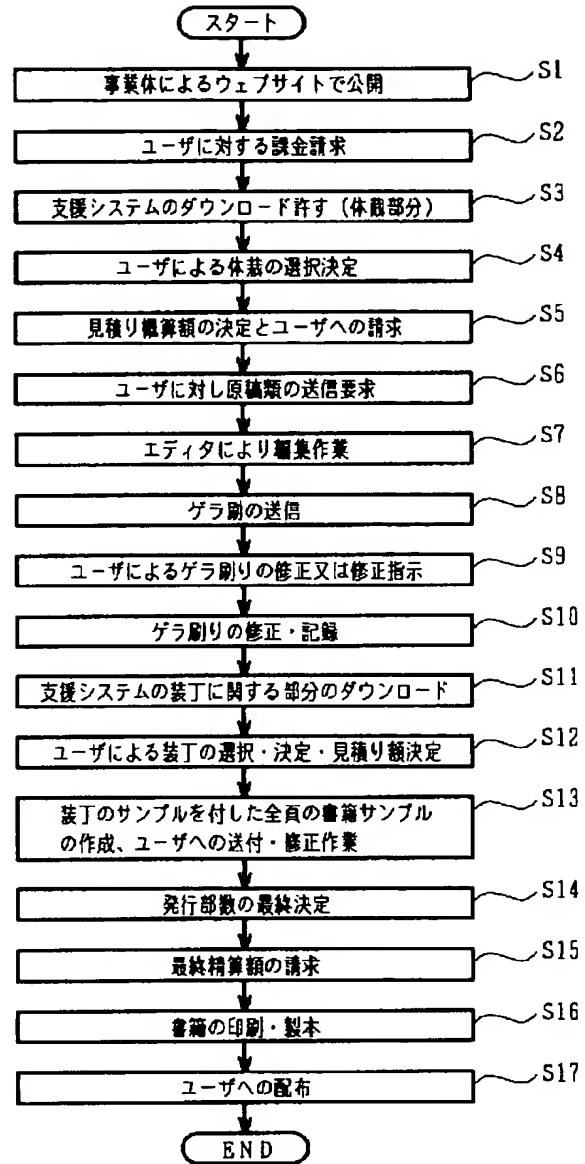
14…プリンタ

100…自費出版システム

【図1】

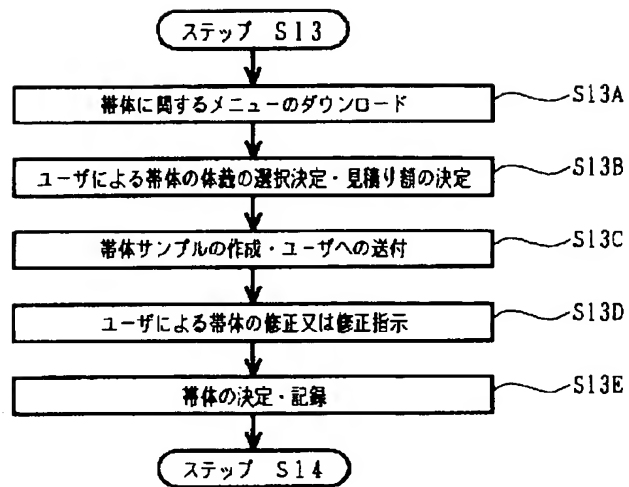


【図3】

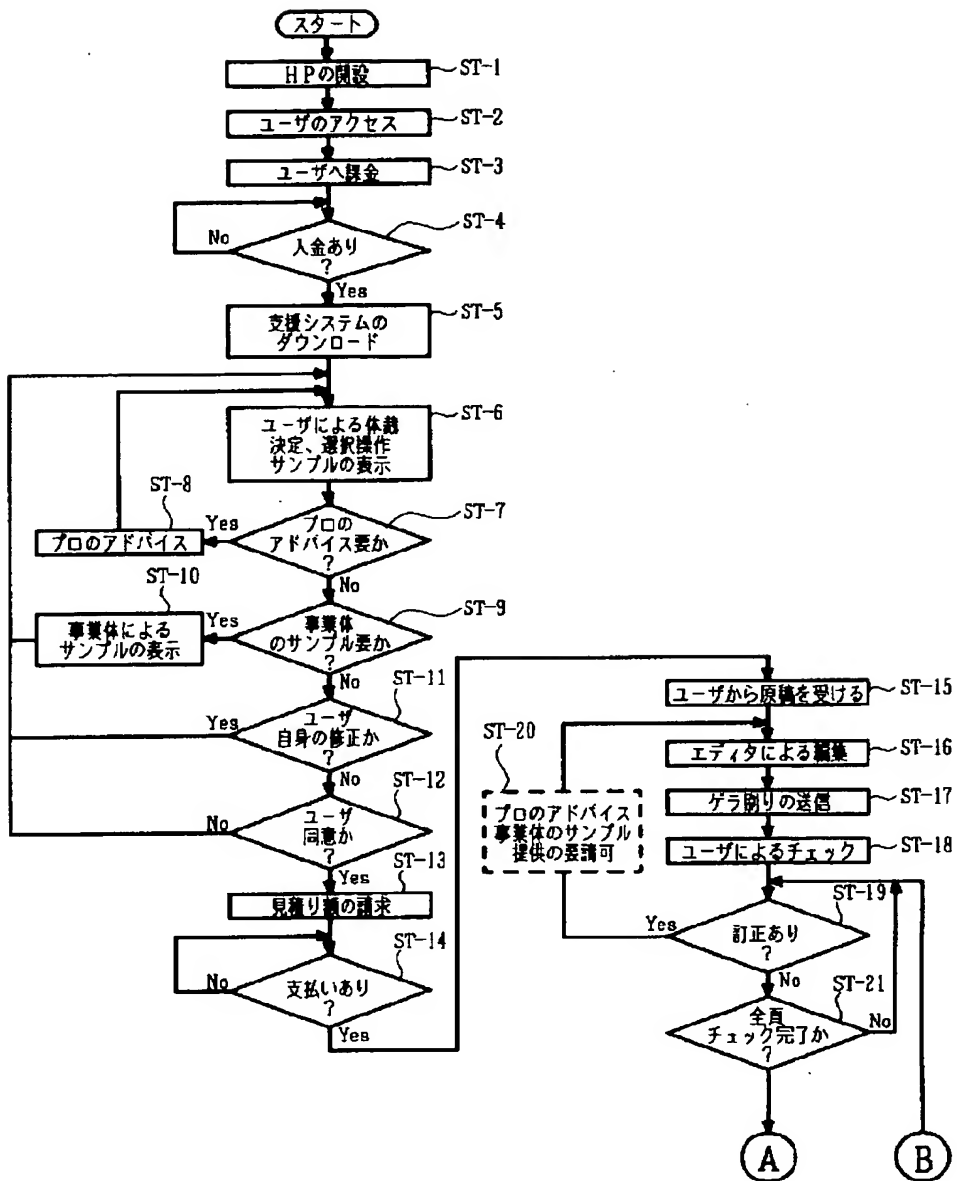


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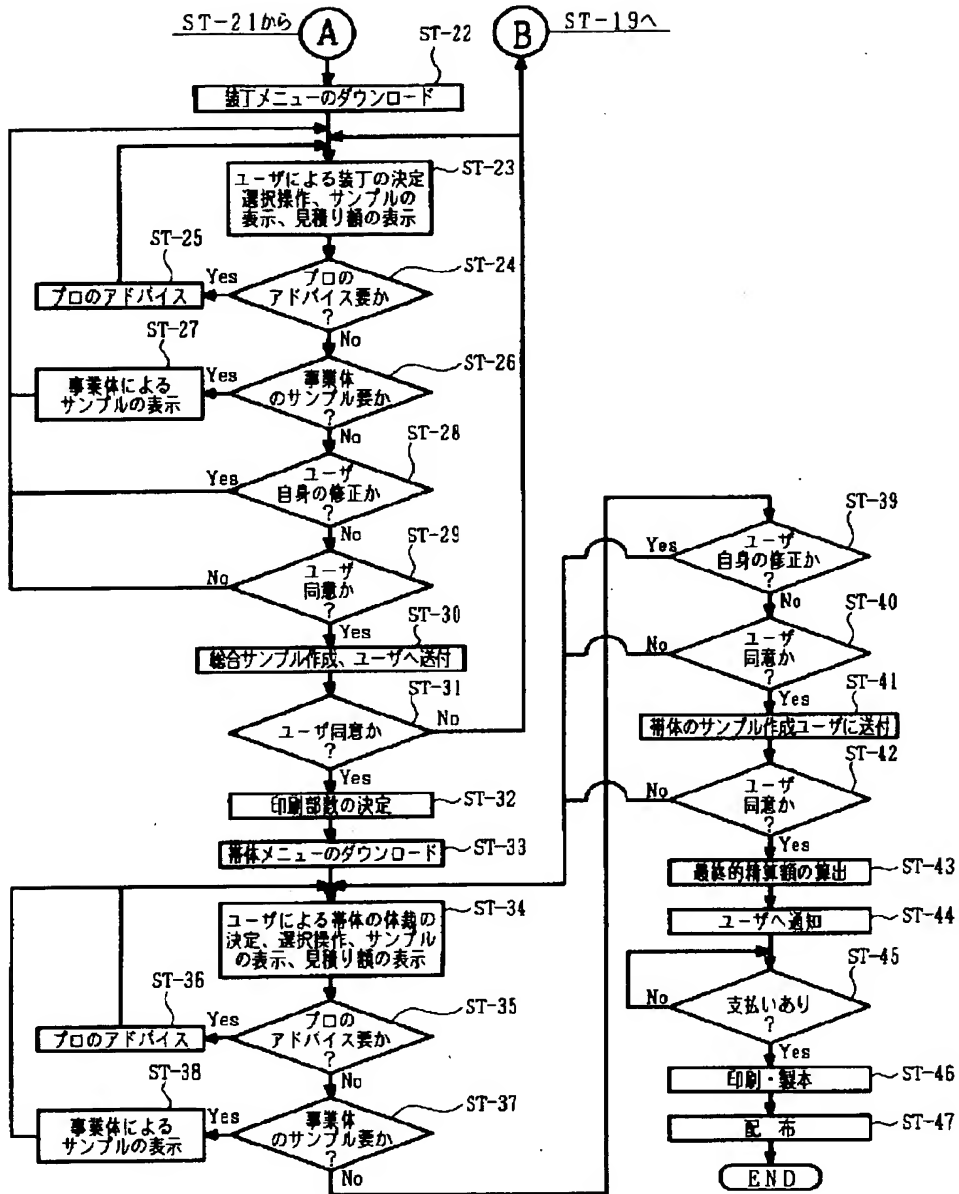
【図4】



【図5】



【図6】



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Bibliography

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(51) [The 7th edition of International Patent Classification]

G06F 17/60 318

ZEC

132

302

[F1]

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132

302 C

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[Theme code (reference)]

5B049

[F term (reference)]

5B049 AA01 AA02 BB25 CC02 CC05 CC11 CC36 DD01 EE00 FF03 GG02 GG04 GG07

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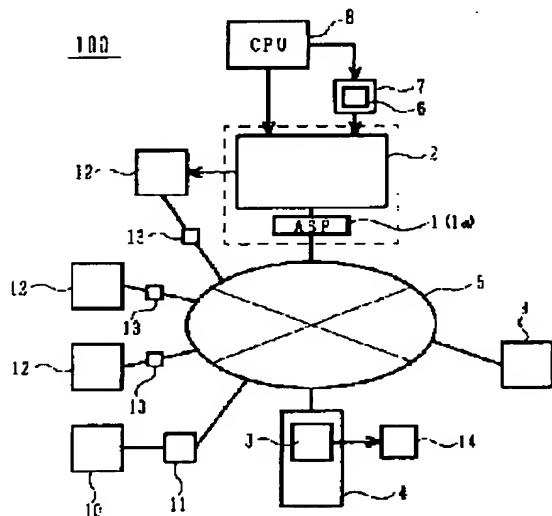
Summary

(57) [Abstract]

[Technical problem] In case desired books are self-published in an individual, the self-publication system which determines [whether it is also ** or] the appearance of books easily and efficiently at a house, and can also check the estimate of self-publication costs is offered.

[Means for Solution] The enterprise object 2 which makes printing issue of books main business, and the user 4 who wants to publish books at his own expense are stationed possible [connection] through the communication line 5, and it is in the enterprise object 2. By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal 3 which self owns based on the contents and composition of the books which a user 4 wants to self-publish himself, and is chosen by dialogic operation A storage means 7 to build in the self-publication support system 6 constituted so that the appearance of self-publication books for which a user wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount might calculate for a short time and could display the result on the display means of a user's information terminal, The self-publication system 100 which has the control means 8 which control the processing operation within the enterprise object 2 concerned while performing the self-publication support system 6.

[Translation done.]



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3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The user who wishes to have the information terminal characterized by providing the following, and to publish books at his own expense In the communication system mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line the user concerned The self-publication support system which the enterprise object concerned offers by accessing the enterprise object concerned is called to the information terminal of self. By performing operation which chooses conditions required based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish along with the various menus

which the self-publication support system concerned displays Even if there are few books concerned which the user concerned wants to self-publish, appearance and the costs estimated rough amount set on the information terminal concerned of the user concerned. for a short time It agrees with appearance, the costs estimated rough amount, etc. at least. it determines efficiently — having — the user concerned — being concerned — When it is able to check with the enterprise object concerned that a part of costs estimated rough amount [at least] concerned was paid to the enterprise object concerned, the enterprise object concerned According to the appearance concerned, galley proof printing of the predetermined books is carried out, and the galley proof version is sent to the user concerned, without minding a communication line. the user concerned Calling again the self-publication support system which the enterprise object concerned offers by accessing the enterprise object concerned again to the information terminal of self, and referring to the galley proof version concerned concerned By performing operation which chooses required conditions along with the various menus about the binding included in the self-publication support system concerned, in order to determine a binding of self-publication books Determine the form of a binding of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and the additional charge which it takes is also determined simultaneously. After the amount due of the frame which deducted the amount of money in which the user concerned has already completed payment to the enterprise object concerned from the sum total of the additional charge concerned and said costs estimated rough amount concerned is determined, the user concerned attaches and agrees with the last amount due concerned. When it becomes certain that the amount due concerned is paid to the enterprise object concerned when it is able to check with the enterprise object concerned that the amount due concerned was paid to the enterprise object concerned, the enterprise object concerned The self-publication system characterized by printing all the pages that added the binding concerned, and sending the completion books concerned to the user concerned, without minding a communication line after binding a book The enterprise object which makes issue main business for having the information terminal which has communication facility, and offering the service about printing bookbinding of books Communication facility [Claim 2] The communication line concerned is a telephone network or a self-publication system according to claim 1 characterized by including the Internet. [Claim 3] The enterprise object concerned is a self-publication system according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by connecting with the communication line concerned electrically through the application service provider (ASP) which self owns or self manages. [Claim 4] The information terminal concerned which the enterprise object concerned owns is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 3 they are. [which is characterized by having a server function] [Claim 5] The information terminal concerned which the enterprise object concerned

owns is a self-publication system according to claim 4 characterized by having a server function containing the application service provider (ASP) concerned.

[Claim 6] The information terminal which the user concerned owns is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 5 they are. [which is characterized by consisting of at least one chosen from the game terminal which has a carried type telephone, a mobile type notebook computer, a desktop PC, and communication facility]

[Claim 7] the self-publication support system concerned which the enterprise object concerned own be a self-publication system given in whether the claim 1 or any of 6 they be . [which be characterize by to constitute various kinds of conditions required for printing and bookbinding of the books which the user concerned be going to self-publish from hierarchy formula menu form , and to be constitute so that the determination and the estimated cost of appearance of self-publication books which the user concerned wish when the user concerned choose required conditions from the menu concerned separately may be compute]

[Claim 8] The self-publication support system concerned is a self-publication system according to claim 7 characterized by being that in which some items [at least], such as an arrangement position in case there are the existence of the genre of the books concerned, appearance, a photograph, and an illustration, the existence of a color page, quality of paper, ****, the number of schedule pages, an used character type, page attachment form, a photograph, and an illustration and size, a binding, and a number of sets, are included.

[Claim 9] The self-publication system according to claim 7 or 8 characterized by including the item which chooses as the self-publication support system concerned whether the user concerned receives advice of the expert about bookbinding of books further in the range of the conditions chosen with the self-publication support system concerned.

[Claim 10] The self-publication system according to claim 7 or 8 characterized by being constituted by the self-publication support system concerned so that a predetermined operation may be performed in the range of the conditions which the user concerned chose with the self-publication support system concerned further, the sample about one or two or more sorts of page layouts may be created and the user concerned may be shown.

[Claim 11] The enterprise object concerned is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 10 they are. [which is characterized by being constituted so that download may be permitted to the information terminal with which the user concerned owns the self-publication support system concerned, after receiving payment of a predetermined charge from the user concerned through a predetermined accounting system, when the self-publication system concerned is exhibited on the communication line concerned and the predetermined user has accessed the enterprise object concerned]

[Claim 12] The user concerned is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or

any of 11 they are. [which is characterized by using the information terminal which self owns, using the downloaded self-publication support system concerned concerned, and checking the appearance and the estimated cost of books which want to publish self]

[Claim 13] The user concerned is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 12 they are by amending each condition already set up in the self-publication support system concerned, when there is a difference with the estimate of the publication costs of the books concerned which the self-publication support system concerned computed, and the budget amount of self. [which is characterized by being constituted so that it may be possible to correct the appearance and the estimated cost of books which want to publish the self concerned]

[Claim 14] When there is a difference with the estimate of the publication costs of the books concerned which the self-publication support system concerned computed, and the budget amount of self of the user concerned The self-publication support system concerned answers directions of the user concerned, and corrects suitably each condition already set up in the self-publication support system concerned. A self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 13 they are. [which is characterized by being constituted so that the estimated cost near coincidence or it may be computed in the budget amount of the user concerned]

[Claim 15] After the user concerned completes payment on the enterprise object concerned through the accounting system concerned for a part of estimated cost [at least] as which the self-publication support system concerned was determined further, The user concerned transmits predetermined manuscript, photograph, and illustration to the enterprise **** concerned through the communication line concerned. the enterprise object concerned While creating each page one by one and transmitting to the user concerned, storing the manuscripts concerned transmitted by the user concerned in a predetermined storage means, and using a predetermined editor When the user concerned inspects the contents of a manuscript for every page concerned transmitted from the enterprise object concerned, it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction [whether the user concerned corrects himself the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal of self, or has the hope of correction, and returns it to the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and] While being attached to the portion which carries out, has the problem concerned, or has the hope of correction, attaching a correction comment, returning the enterprise object concerned through a communication line and making predetermined correction in the enterprise object concerned A self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 14 they are. [to which starting processing operation is characterized by being repeated to the last page of the self-publication books concerned]

[Claim 16] The self-publication support system concerned is a self-publication system according to claim 15 characterized by including the service which enables

the user concerned to receive advice of the expert about bookbinding of books about the correction processing operation concerned.

[Claim 17] It is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 16 they are. [which the user concerned was created in the self-publication system concerned, or is characterized by it being possible to have made it print out with the printing means connected to the information terminal concerned of whether it checks with a display means of an information terminal by which the user concerned owns correction and the sample of each page concerned which it corrected, and the user concerned, and to check]

[Claim 18] The self-publication support system concerned is a self-publication system given in whether display on the information terminal with which the user concerned owns the menu for binding determination for determining a binding of the books concerned when there is consent of the user concerned about all the pages about the books concerned, and the claim 1 or any of 17 they are further. [which is characterized by to be constituted so that conditions required for the user concerned to determine a binding out of the menu concerned may be chosen and specified]

[Claim 19] The menu for binding determination concerned is a self-publication system according to claim 18 characterized by being that in which some items [at least], such as estimate of costs concerning [whether the printing position of the type of the character used for the design of a cover and a back cover a title, a title, and an author name, a title, and an author name, a photograph, or an illustration is used, whether color printing is used, and] the quality of paper for a binding and a binding, are included.

[Claim 20] It is the self-publication system according to claim 18 or 19 characterized by being constituted so that a predetermined operation may be performed in the range of the conditions as which the user concerned chose the enterprise object concerned with the menu for binding determination concerned further in the self-publication support system concerned, the sample about one or two or more sorts of bindings may be created and the user concerned may be shown.

[Claim 21] When the user concerned inspects the contents of a manuscript of the sample about the binding concerned transmitted from the enterprise object concerned, it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction [whether the user concerned corrects himself the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal of self, or has the hope of correction, and returns it to the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and] A self-publication system given in the claim 18 or any of 20 they are. [which is characterized by being attached to a portion with the hope of whether there is any problem concerned and correction, attaching a correction comment, returning the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and making the predetermined correction concerned with the enterprise object

concerned]

[Claim 22] It is a self-publication system given in the claim 18 or any of 21 they are. [which is characterized by it being possible for the user concerned to have been created in the self-publication system concerned, or to have made the sample about correction and the binding concerned which it corrected print out with the printing means connected to the information terminal concerned of whether it checks with the display means of the information terminal which the user concerned owns, and the user concerned, and to check it]

[Claim 23] The self-publication support system concerned is a self-publication system according to claim 22 characterized by including the service which enables the user concerned to receive advice of the expert about bookbinding of books about the correction processing operation concerned.

[Claim 24] In the self-publication system concerned, further, when the user concerned has agreed with the composition of the binding concerned The enterprise object concerned is based on the setting data concerned stored in the predetermined storage means which the enterprise object concerned has. A self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 23 they are. [which is characterized by being characterized by being constituted so that it may send without concerned carrying out printing bookbinding at least of the part for the sample of books with the binding concerned, and minding a communication line]

[Claim 25] When the user concerned inspects the content of the sample of the books concerned, it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem further in the self-publication system concerned or there is hope of correction [whether the user concerned corrects the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal of self, or has the hope of correction on his information terminal, and returns it to the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and] It is attached to the portion which has the problem concerned or has the hope of correction, attach a correction comment, and the enterprise object concerned is returned through a communication line. A self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 24 they are. [which is characterized by being constituted so that the belt creation menu which creates the belt appended to the books concerned may be displayed on the information terminal of the user concerned, when the predetermined correction concerned is made with the enterprise object concerned and there is no correction concerned]

[Claim 26] The self-publication system according to claim 25 characterized by at least one items, such as determination of the text used for the type of the character used [whether the belt concerned is attached and] for the appearance of the belt concerned, the design of the belt concerned, and the belt concerned and the belt concerned and an estimated cost, containing in the belt creation menu concerned.

[Claim 27] It is the self-publication system according to claim 25 or 26 characterized by being constituted so that a pred termined operation may be performed in the range of the conditions as which the user concerned chose the

enterprise object concerned with the belt creation menu concerned further in the self-publication system concerned, the sample about one or two or more sorts of belts may be created and the user concerned may be shown.

[Claim 28] When the user concerned inspects the contents of a manuscript of the sample about the belt concerned transmitted from the enterprise object concerned, it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction [whether the user concerned corrects himself the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal of self, or has the hope of correction, and returns it to the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and] A self-publication system given in the claim 25 or any of 27 they are. [which is characterized by being attached to a portion with the hope of whether there is any problem concerned and correction, attaching a correction comment, returning the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and making the predetermined correction concerned with the enterprise object concerned]

[Claim 29] It is a self-publication system given in the claim 25 or any of 28 they are. [which is characterized by it being possible for the user concerned to have been created in the self-publication system concerned, or to have made the sample about correction and the belt concerned which it corrected print out with the printing means connected to the information terminal concerned of whether it checks with the display means of the information terminal which the user concerned owns, and the user concerned, and to check it]

[Claim 30] In the self-publication system concerned the user concerned When it has agreed with the composition of the created sample concerned or the sample concerned, and a belt Determine all the self-publication costs required for the enterprise object concerned to print and bind a book for predetermined number of copies of the books concerned, and the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user concerned has already paid provisionally from the self-publication costs concerned is shown to the user concerned. Although sent to the user concerned after it starts execution of printing bookbinding of the books concerned after being able to check the payment, and the books concerned are completed The claim 1 characterized by when the user concerned cannot agree with the adjusted amount concerned, being constituted so that it may return to which the above-mentioned menu, and the adjusted amount concerned may be settled in the budget of the user concerned, and change of a required setup and correction may be performed, or a self-publication system given in any of 29.

[Claim 31] The enterprise object concerned is the claim 1 to which it is characterized by oneself's being the thing of a printing function or a bookbinding function which has at least any they are in the self-publication system concerned, or a self-publication system given in any of 30.

[Claim 32] It is a self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 31 in the self-publication system concerned, the enterprise object concerned owns the application software for performing the menu concerned, and they are. [which is

characterized by constituting the printing processing operation concerned and bookbinding processing operation so that it may process by outsourcing]

[Claim 33] In the self-publication system concerned the enterprise object concerned It is constituted so that it may connect with two or more external publication enterprise objects of the printing function concerned and a bookbinding function which have at least any they are through the communication line concerned. When the request of the self-publication concerned has the enterprise object concerned from the user concerned, each menu conditions concerned of the self-publication books concerned are shown to each external publication enterprise object. A self-publication system given in the claim 1 or any of 32 submit an estimate individually from each external publication enterprise object, and they are out of it. [which is characterized by being constituted so that the external publication enterprise object concerned which presented the underestimation frame most may be commissioned to printing and bookbinding of the self-publication books concerned]

[Claim 34] The enterprise object which has the information terminal which has communication facility, and makes printing issue of books main business, The user who wishes to have the information terminal which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense In the communication system mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line on the enterprise object concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation A storage means to build in the self-publication support system constituted so that the appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount might calculate for a short time and could display the result on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned, The self-publication system by which it is characterized [in which it has the control means which perform the self-publication support system concerned, and the predetermined accounting system is connected to the communication line concerned].

[Claim 35] in the communication line concerned, the expert who was well versed for any [printing of technology and books which prepares the appearance containing the page layout of books of books, or] of bookbinding technology being owns — the self-publication system according to claim 34 characterized by connecting further the information terminal which has communication facility

[Claim 36] The enterprise object concerned is a self-publication system according to claim 34 characterized by being the publication enterprise object of a printing function and a bookbinding function which has at least any they are.

[Claim 37] A self-publication system given in the claim 34 or any of 36 they are. [which is characterized by connecting 1 or two or more publication enterprise objects with which the enterprise objects concerned differ in the communication line

concerned through the information terminal which has communication facility] [Claim 38] The user who wishes to have the information terminal characterized by providing the following, and to publish books at his own expense It is mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line. to the communication line concerned In the communication system to which the predetermined accounting system is connected the enterprise object concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation The appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount calculate for a short time. It has a storage means to build in the self-publication support system constituted so that the result could be displayed on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned. As opposed to the user concerned to whom the enterprise object concerned has accessed offering printing / bookbinding service of self-publication books at the 1st process opened to a website, and the enterprise object concerned The 2nd process which charges a predetermined charge through the predetermined accounting system concerned, When the user concerned pays a predetermined charge or it is judged that the payment is trustworthy The 3rd process which it permits downloading to the information terminal concerned with which the user concerned owns the self-publication support system concerned to the user concerned, The estimated cost of the appearance about the books which self wishes to have [the user concerned] using the self-publication support system concerned, and an estimated cost calculates. The 4th process which stands by during the period when the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the self-publication support system concerned All or the 5th process which performs a part of the claims of payment to the user concerned at least of the estimated estimated costs concerned, When the user concerned performs payment of the amount billed concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The manuscript with which the enterprise object concerned is used for the self-publication books concerned to the user concerned, The 6th process demanded so that manuscripts, such as a photograph and an illustration, may be transmitted through the communication line concerned, The enterprise object concerned uses the predetermined editor defined beforehand based on various kinds of conditions about the appearance of the books concerned with which the user concerned chose and determined the manuscripts concerned which received. The 7th process which starts an editing task, and the enterprise object concerned The process of the octavus which transmits to the user concerned through the communication line concerned, and the user concerned each page of the galley version of the edited books concerned It is attached to each page of the galley version of the transmitted

books concerned, and the work is done. When correction or change needs to be corrected [whether the galley version concerned is corrected itself / concerned / user / at the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns, and] The 9th process at which the correction matter concerned is transmitted to the enterprise object concerned through the communication line concerned, and the enterprise object concerned receives it, [whether based on the correction request information from the user concerned, it corrects to the galley version concerned with the enterprise object concerned, and] When it is attached to all the pages about the 10th process which makes the storage means memorize the signed-off Mino galley version returned by the user concerned, and the galley version of the books concerned and there is consent of the user concerned The 11th process which accepts for download the binding determination menu which determines a binding of the books concerned with which the enterprise object concerned is included in the self-publication support system concerned in the information terminal of the user concerned, and the user concerned use the binding determination menu concerned. The 12th process which stands by during the period when the appearance of a binding and the estimated cost of an estimated cost about the books which self wishes to have calculate in, and the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the binding determination menu concerned about the binding concerned When the user concerned does not agree to the 13th process which creates the sample of the books including the binding concerned concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned, and the sample concerned Although same operation is performed by any of the enterprise object concerned or the user concerned with having returned and described above at which the above-mentioned process concerned When the user concerned has agreed to the sample concerned The 14th process which performs terminal decision attached to the circulation of the books concerned among enterprise objects and the users concerned concerned, Based on the circulation of the books [concerned] concerned finally determined, the self-publication support system concerned Calculate the final synthesis costs about publication of the books concerned, and the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user concerned already paid for the enterprise object concerned from the result of an operation is calculated. When the 15th process of which the user concerned is notified, and the user concerned pay the adjusted amount concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The enterprise object concerned is the self-publication method characterized by being attached to the books concerned and consisting of the 16th process which performs printing and bookbinding of determined number of copies concerned, and the 17th process which sends the completed books concerned to the user concerned. The enterprise object which has the information terminal which has communication facility, and makes printing issue

of books main business Communication facility

[Claim 39] The communication line concerned is a telephone network or the self-publication method according to claim 38 characterized by including the Internet.

[Claim 40] The enterprise object concerned is the self-publication method according to claim 38 or 39 characterized by connecting with the communication line concerned electrically through the application service provider (ASP) which self owns or self manages.

[Claim 41] The information terminal concerned which the enterprise object concerned owns is the self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 40 they are. [which is characterized by having a server function] [Claim 42] The information terminal concerned which the enterprise object concerned owns is the self-publication method according to claim 41 characterized by having a server function containing the application service provider (ASP) concerned.

[Claim 43] the self-publication support system concerned which the enterprise object concerned own be the self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 41 they be . [which be characterize by to constitute various kinds of conditions required for printing and bookbinding of the books which the user concerned be going to self-publish from hierarchy formula menu form , and to be constitute so that the determination and the estimated cost of appearance of self-publication books which the user concerned wish when the user concerned choose required conditions separately may be compute]

[Claim 44] The self-publication support system concerned is the self-publication method according to claim 38 to 43 characterized by being that in which some items [at least], such as an arrangement position in case there are the existence of the genre of the books concerned, appearance, a photograph, and an illustration, the existence of a color page, quality of paper, ****, the number of schedule pages, an used character type, page attachment form, a photograph, and an illustration and size, a binding, and a number of sets, are included.

[Claim 45] The self-publication support system concerned is the self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 44 they are. [which is characterized by including the menu for binding determination for determining a binding of the books concerned further]

[Claim 46] The menu for binding determination concerned is the self-publication method according to claim 45 characterized by being that in which some items [at least], such as estimate of costs concerning [whether the printing position of the type of the character used for the design of a cover and a back cover a title, a title, and an author name, a title, and an author name, a photograph, or an illustration is used, whether color printing is used, and] the quality of paper for a binding and a binding, are included.

[Claim 47] The self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 46 they are. [which is characterized by containing the menu which chooses as the self-publication support system concerned whether the user concerned receives advice

of the expert about bookbinding of books further in the range of the conditions chosen with the self-publication support system concerned]

[Claim 48] The self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 46 they are. [which is characterized by being constituted by the self-publication support system concerned so that a predetermined operation may be performed in the range of the conditions which the user concerned chose with the self-publication support system concerned further, one or two or more sorts of page layouts or the sample about a binding may be created and the user concerned may be shown]

[Claim 49] In the self-publication support system concerned, between the 13th process concerned and the 14th process, further the enterprise object concerned The 13th (A) process which accepts for download the belt creation menu which creates the belt appended to the books concerned contained in the self-publication support system concerned in the information terminal of the user concerned, and the user concerned use the belt determination menu concerned. The appearance of a belt and the estimated cost of an estimated cost which are appended to the books which self wishes to have calculate. The 13th (B) process which stands by during the period when the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the belt determination menu concerned about the belt concerned When the user concerned does not agree to the 13th (C) process which creates the sample of the belt concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned, and the sample concerned Although same operation is performed by any of the enterprise object concerned or the user concerned with having returned and described above at which the above-mentioned process concerned The self-publication support method given in the claim 38 or any of 48 they are. [which is characterized by being that to which the 13th (D) process which prints the belt concerned is added when the user concerned has agreed to the sample concerned]

[Claim 50] The enterprise object concerned is the claim 38 to which it is characterized by oneself's being the thing of a printing function or a bookbinding function which has at least any they are in the self-publication system concerned, or the self-publication method given in any of 49.

[Claim 51] It is the self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 50 in the self-publication system concerned, the enterprise object concerned owns the application software for performing a menu and the menu concerned concerned, and they are. [which is characterized by constituting the printing function concerned and the bookbinding function so that it may process by outsourcing]

[Claim 52] In the self-publication system concerned the enterprise object concerned It is constituted so that it may connect with two or more external publication enterprise objects of the printing function concerned and a bookbinding function which have at least any they are through the communication line concerned. When the request of the self-publication concerned has the enterprise object concerned from the user concerned, each menu conditions concerned of the self-publication

books concerned are shown to each external publication enterprise object. The self-publication method given in the claim 38 or any of 51 they are. [which is characterized by being constituted so that the external publication enterprise object concerned which was made to submit an estimate from each external publication enterprise object, and presented the cheapest estimated cost out of it may be commissioned to printing and bookbinding of the self-publication books concerned] [Claim 53] The user who wishes to have the information terminal characterized by providing the following, and to publish books at his own expense It is mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line. to the communication line concerned In the communication system to which the predetermined accounting system is connected the enterprise object concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation The appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount calculate for a short time. It has a storage means to build in the self-publication support system constituted so that the result could be displayed on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned. As opposed to the user concerned to whom the enterprise object concerned has accessed offering printing / bookbinding service of self-publication books at the 1st process opened to a website, and the enterprise object concerned The 2nd process which charges a predetermined charge through the predetermined accounting system concerned, When the user concerned pays a predetermined charge or it is judged that the payment is trustworthy The 3rd process which it permits downloading to the information terminal concerned with which the user concerned owns the self-publication support system concerned to the user concerned, The estimated cost of the appearance about the books which self wishes to have [the user concerned] using the self-publication support system concerned, and an estimated cost calculates. The 4th process which stands by during the period when the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the self-publication support system concerned All or the 5th process which performs a part of the claims of payment to the user concerned at least of the estimated estimated costs concerned, When the user concerned performs payment of the amount billed concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The manuscript with which the enterprise object concerned is used for the self-publication books concerned to the user concerned, The 6th process demanded so that manuscripts, such as a photograph and an illustration, may be transmitted through the communication line concerned, The enterprise object concerned uses the predetermined editor defined beforehand based on various kinds of conditions about the appearance of the books concerned with which the user concerned chose

and determined the manuscripts concerned which received. The 7th process which starts an editing task, and the enterprise object concerned The process of the octavus which transmits to the user concerned through the communication line concerned, and the user concerned each page of the galley version of the edited books concerned It is attached to each page of the galley version of the transmitted books concerned, and tic work is done. when correction or change needs to be corrected [whether the galley version concerned is corrected itself / concerned / user / at the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns, and] The 9th process at which the correction matter concerned is transmitted to the enterprise object concerned through the communication line concerned, and the enterprise object concerned receives it, [whether based on the correction request information from the user concerned, it corrects to the galley version concerned with the enterprise object concerned, and] When it is attached to all the pages about the 10th process which makes the storage means memorize the signed-off Mino galley version returned by the user concerned, and the galley version of the books concerned and there is consent of the user concerned The 11th process which accepts for download the binding determination menu which determines a binding of the books concerned with which the enterprise object concerned is included in the self-publication support system concerned in the information terminal of the user concerned, and the user concerned use the binding determination menu concerned. The 12th process which stands by during the period when the appearance of a binding and the estimated cost of an estimated cost about the books which self wishes to have calculate in, and the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the binding determination menu concerned about the binding concerned When the user concerned does not agree to the 13th process which creates the sample of the books including the binding concerned concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned, and the sample concerned Although same operation is performed by any of the enterprise object concerned or the user concerned with having returned and described above at which the above-mentioned process concerned When the user concerned has agreed to the sample concerned The 14th process which performs terminal decision attached to the circulation of the books concerned among enterprise objects and the users concerned concerned, Based on the circulation of the books [concerned] concerned finally determined, the self-publication support system concerned Calculate the final synthesis costs about publication of the books concerned, and the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user concerned already paid for the enterprise object concerned from the result of an operation is calculated. When the 15th process of which the user concerned is notified, and the user concerned pay the adjusted amount concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The enterprise object concerned is a record medium

which recorded the program for performing the self-publication method which consists of the 16th process which is attached to the books concerned and performs printing and bookbinding of determined number of copies concerned, and the 17th process which sends the completed books concerned to the user concerned by computer. The enterprise object which has the information terminal which has communication facility, and makes printing issue of books main business Communication facility

[Translation done.]

*** NOTICES ***

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- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the self-publication system which can determine the platemaking of books easily efficiently in a short time, and its method in detail about a self-publication system and the self-publication method to the user who hopes that he wants to self-publish predetermined books through a communication line, for example, the Internet, especially.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the former, when an individual wants to publish books at his own expense After listening to explanation of various kinds of conditions required in order to go to manuscript *****, publishing company, or bookbinding company which created personally beforehand and to publish the books concerned there, and the conditions about costs It will return to a house, correction, deletion, or an addition of the manuscript concerned etc. will be worked, it will go to the publishing company concerned or a bookbinding company again, and the advice about indication of a trouble or correction etc. will be received again.

[0003] Moreover, in many cases, although FAX was also possible when it was easy correction, the individual concerned was an amateur in many cases, and since he

had to receive explanation in the person in charge of a direct publishing company or a bookbinding company in many cases, he had the complicatedness referred to as having to carry a leg repeatedly.

[0004] it -- in addition, there was also misgiving that it does not know whether the publishing company or bookbinding company which visited hears the talk directly and whether it goes with a field that it is uneasy from the person in charge of the publishing company concerned or a bookbinding company, and a fool is made, and that an individual self-publishes about books had the reality said that remarkable courage is not general required therefore

[0005] He wished publication of the books which certainly sell from efficiency becoming bad in many cases, even if it publishes much books which are not conventionally understood which sells on the other hand in a publishing company or a bookbinding company.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] therefore, the purpose of this invention described above -- the self-publication system which can also check the estimate of the costs which can determine [whether it is also ** or] the appearance of books easily and efficiently at a house, and self-publication takes is offered to improve the fault of the conventional technology and self-publish desired books in an individual

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention adopts technical composition which was indicated below in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose. Namely, the enterprise object which makes issue main business for having the information terminal which has communication facility as the 1st mode concerning this invention, and offering the service about printing bookbinding of books, The user who wishes to have the information terminal which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense In the communication system mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line the user concerned The self-publication support system which the enterprise object concerned offers by accessing the enterprise object concerned is called to the information terminal of self. By performing operation which chooses conditions required based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish along with the various menus which the self-publication support system concerned displays Even if there are few books concerned which the user concerned wants to self-publish, appearance and the costs estimated rough amount set on the information terminal concerned of the user concerned. for a short time It agrees with appearance, the costs estimated rough amount, etc. at least. it determines efficiently -- having -- the user concerned -- being concerned -- When it is able to check with the enterprise object concerned that a part of costs estimated rough amount [at least] concerned was paid to the enterprise object concerned, the enterpris object concerned According to the appearance concerned,

galley proof printing of the predetermined books is carried out, and the galley proof version is sent to the user concerned, without minding a communication line. the user concerned Calling again the self-publication support system which the enterprise object concerned offers by accessing the enterprise object concerned again to the information terminal of self, and referring to the galley proof version concerned concerned By performing operation which chooses required conditions along with the various menus about the binding included in the self-publication support system concerned, in order to determine a binding of self-publication books Determine the form of a binding of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and the additional charge which it takes is also determined simultaneously. After the amount due of the frame which deducted the amount of money in which the user concerned has already completed payment to the enterprise object concerned from the sum total of the additional charge concerned and said costs estimated rough amount concerned is determined, the user concerned attaches and agrees with the last amount due concerned. When it becomes certain that the amount due concerned is paid to the enterprise object concerned when it is able to check with the enterprise object concerned that the amount due concerned was paid to the enterprise object concerned, the enterprise object concerned All the pages that added the binding concerned are printed, and after binding a book, it is the self-publication system constituted so that the completion books concerned might be sent to the user concerned, without minding a communication line.

[0008] Moreover, the enterprise object which has the information terminal which has communication facility as the 2nd mode in this invention, and makes printing issue of books main business, The user who wishes to have the information terminal which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense In the communication system mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line on the enterprise object concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation A storage means to build in the self-publication support system constituted so that the appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount might calculate for a short time and could display the result on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned, It is the self-publication system constituted as it has the control means which perform the self-publication support system concerned and the predetermined accounting system is connected to the communication line concerned.

[0009] Furthermore, the enterprise object which has the information terminal which has communication facility as the 3rd mode concerning this invention, and makes printing issue of books main business, The user who wishes to have the information

terminal which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense. It is mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line. to the communication line concerned. In the communication system to which the predetermined accounting system is connected, the enterprise object concerned. By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns based on the contents and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation. The appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount calculate for a short time. It has a storage means to build in the self-publication support system constituted so that the result could be displayed on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned. As opposed to the user concerned to whom the enterprise object concerned has accessed offering printing / bookbinding service of self-publication books at the 1st process opened to a website, and the enterprise object concerned. The 2nd process which charges a predetermined charge through the predetermined accounting system concerned, When the user concerned pays a predetermined charge or it is judged that the payment is trustworthy. The 3rd process which it permits downloading to the information terminal concerned with which the user concerned owns the self-publication support system concerned to the user concerned, The estimated cost of the appearance about the books which self wishes to have [the user concerned] using the self-publication support system concerned, and an estimated cost calculates. The 4th process which stands by during the period when the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned. When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the self-publication support system concerned. Or a part of the claims of payment are performed to the user concerned at least. all of the estimated estimated costs concerned -- When the user concerned performs payment of the amount billed concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy. The manuscript with which the enterprise object concerned is used for the self-publication books concerned to the user concerned, The 5th process demanded so that manuscripts, such as a photograph and an illustration, may be transmitted through the communication line concerned, The enterprise object concerned uses the predetermined editor defined beforehand based on various kinds of conditions about the appearance of the books concerned with which the user concerned chose and determined the manuscripts concerned which received. The 6th process which starts an editing task, and the enterprise object concerned. The 7th process transmitted to the user concerned through the communication line concerned and the user concerned each page of the galley version of the edited books concerned. It is attached to each page of the galley version of the transmitted books concerned, and the Check work is done. when correction or change needs to be corrected [whether the galley version concerned is corrected itself / concerned / user / at the information terminal concerned which

the user concerned owns, and] The 8th process at which the correction matter concerned is transmitted to the enterprise object concerned through the communication line concerned, and the enterprise object concerned receives it, [whether based on the correction request information from the user concerned, it corrects to the galley version concerned with the enterprise object concerned, and] When it is attached to all the pages about the 9th process which made the storage means memorize the signed-off Mino galley version returned by the user concerned and to set, and the galley version of the books concerned and there is consent of the user concerned The 10th process which accepts for download the binding determination menu which determines a binding of the books concerned with which the enterprise object concerned is included in the self-publication support system concerned in the information terminal of the user concerned, and the user concerned use the binding determination menu concerned. The 11th process which stands by during the period when the appearance of a binding and the estimated cost of an estimated cost about the books which self wishes to have calculate in, and the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object concerned When the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the binding determination menu concerned about the binding concerned When the user concerned does not agree to the 12th process which creates the sample of the books including the binding concerned concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned, and the sample concerned Although same operation is performed by any of the enterprise object concerned or the user concerned with having returned and described above at which the above-mentioned process concerned When the user concerned has agreed to the sample concerned The 13th process which performs terminal decision attached to the circulation of the books concerned among enterprise objects and the users concerned concerned, Based on the circulation of the books [concerned] concerned finally determined, the self-publication support system concerned Calculate the final synthesis costs about publication of the books concerned, and the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user concerned already paid for the enterprise object concerned from the result of an operation is calculated. When the user concerned is notified, and the user concerned pays the adjusted amount concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The enterprise object concerned is the self-publication method which consists of the 14th process which is attached to the books concerned and performs printing and bookbinding of determined number of copies concerned, and the 15th process which sends the completed books concerned to the user concerned.

[0010]

[Embodiments of the Invention] since the technical composition which described a top has adopted and the self-publication system concerned and the self-publication method concerning this invention can also check the estimate of the costs which

self-publication takes while being able to determine the content and appearance about the books which an individual wants whether it is also ** and to self-publish easily and efficiently through communication networks , such as the Internet , at a house , after check on real time , they become possible [plan self-publication in comfort]

[0011]

[Example] Below, the composition of the example of the self-publication method concerning this invention and a self-publication system is explained in detail, referring to a drawing.

[0012] Namely, the enterprise object 2 which drawing 1 is a block diagram which shows the composition of 1 concrete target of the self-publication system concerning this invention, and has among drawing the information terminal 1 which has communication facility, and makes printing issue of books main business, The user 4 who wishes to have the information terminal 3 which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense In the communication system 100 mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line 5 on the enterprise object 2 concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal 3 concerned which the user 4 concerned owns based on the contents and composition of the books which the user 4 concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation A storage means 7 to build in the self-publication support system 6 constituted so that the appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount might calculate for a short time and could display the result on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned, While performing the self-publication support system 6 concerned, the self-publication system 100 which has the control means 8 which control the processing operation within the enterprise object 2 concerned and by which the predetermined accounting system 9 is connected to the communication line 5 concerned is shown.

[0013] still more detailed composition and function of the self-publication system concerned in this invention are explained below — if it becomes In the self-publication system 100 concerned concerning this invention The enterprise object 2 which makes issue main business for having the information terminal 1 which has communication facility, and offering the service about printing bookbinding of books, The user 4 who wishes to have the information terminal 3 which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense In the communication system mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line 5 the user 4 concerned The self-publication support system 6 which the enterprise object 2 concerned offers by accessing the enterprise object 2 concerned is called to the information terminal 3 of self. By performing operation which chooses the conditions which need the self-publication support system 6 concerned based on the content and composition of the books which the user 4 concerned wants to

self-publish by dialogic operation to serial along with the various menus displayed on the screen concerned Even if there are few books concerned which the user 4 concerned wants to self-publish, appearance and the costs estimated rough amount set on the information terminal 3 concerned of the user 4 concerned. for a short time It agrees with appearance, the costs estimated rough amount, etc. at least. it determines efficiently -- having -- the user 4 concerned -- being concerned -- When that a part of costs estimated rough amount [at least] concerned was paid to the enterprise object 2 concerned is able to check with the enterprise object 2 concerned When it becomes certain that the amount due concerned is paid to the enterprise object 2 concerned, or the enterprise object 2 concerned According to the appearance concerned, galley proof printing of the predetermined books is carried out, and the galley proof version 20 is sent to the user 4 concerned, without minding a communication line 5. the user 4 concerned Calling again the self-publication support system 6 which the enterprise object 2 concerned offers by accessing the enterprise object 2 concerned again to the information terminal 3 of self, and referring to the galley proof version 20 concerned By performing operation which chooses required conditions along with the various menus about the binding included in the self-publication support system 6 concerned, in order to determine a binding of self-publication books Determine the form of a binding of the books which the user 4 concerned wants to self-publish, and the additional charge which it takes is also determined simultaneously. After the amount due of the frame which deducted the amount of money in which the user 4 concerned has already completed payment to the enterprise object 2 concerned from the sum total of the additional charge concerned and said costs estimated rough amount concerned is determined, the user 4 concerned attaches and agrees with the last amount due concerned. When that the amount due concerned was paid to the enterprise object 2 concerned is able to check with the enterprise object 2 concerned Or when it becomes certain that the amount due concerned is paid to the enterprise object 2 concerned, the enterprise object 2 concerned prints all the pages that added the binding concerned, and after binding a book, it is constituted so that the completion books 40 concerned may be sent to the user 4 concerned, without minding a communication line.

[0014] As for the communication line 5 concerned concerning this invention, it is desirable to include a telephone network or the Internet.

[0015] Moreover, it connects with the communication line 5 concerned electrically through the application service provider (ASP) 8 which self owns or self manages, there may be the enterprise object 2 concerned in this invention, and the information terminal 1 concerned which the enterprise object 2 concerned owns needs to have a server function anyway.

[0016] Therefor , in this invention, the information terminal 1 concerned which the enterprise object 2 concerned owns contains the application service provider (ASP) 8 concerned, and there may be.

[0017] On the other hand, although especially the information terminal 3 that the user 4 concerned in this invention owns is not limited, it is desirable to consist of at least one chosen from the game terminal which has a carried type telephone, a mobile type notebook computer, a desktop PC, and communication facility, for example.

[0018] In the self-publication system concerned concerning this invention The user 4 who wants to self-publish books pays a predetermined charge, download the self-publication support system 6 concerned which the enterprise object 2 concerned owns to the information terminal 3 of self, and the self-publication support system 6 concerned is used. By being attached to the specific books which the user concerned is going to self-publish, and inputting the form, appearance, the arrangement of a text, the arrangement position of a photograph and an illustration, pagination, quality of paper, the existence of colorization, etc. It is constituted so that the estimate of the costs which self-publication takes may also be displayed at the same time the form and appearance of standard books are determined.

[0019] Therefore, by choosing from the menu concerned separately the required conditions which consist of hierarchy formula menu form in various kinds of conditions required for printing and bookbinding of the books which he is going to self-publish, the user is constituted so that the determination and the estimated cost of appearance of self-publication books which the user concerned wishes may be computed.

[0020] Although an example of the menu of the self-publication support system 6 concerned concerning this invention is shown in drawing 2 , it cannot be overemphasized that this is only illustrated as one of the examples, and there may be much other menu form.

[0021] An example of the menu in the self-publication support system 6 concerned is shown in drawing 2 .

[0022] That is, as the composition of the menu in the self-publication support system 6 concerned in this invention is shown in drawing 2 , some items [at least], such as an arrangement position in case there are the existence of the genre of the books concerned, appearance, a photograph, and an illustration, the existence of a color page, quality of paper, ****, the number of schedule pages, an used character type, page attachment form, a photograph, and an illustration and size, a binding, and a number of sets, are included.

[0023] Moreover, it is also desirable to include the item which chooses as the self-publication support system 6 concerned concerning this invention whether the user concerned receives advice of the expert about bookbinding of books further in the range of the conditions chosen with the self-publication support system 6 concerned.

[0024] It may be constituted so that the ***** which exists in part may be requested from this expert in any routings which include edit of the books concerned, a plan, proofreading, etc. in pros, such as edit of the starting expert, i.e.,

the books concerned, a plan, and proofreading.

[0025] In this case, it is that an estimated cost and a final adjusted amount may increase.

[0026] As showing in drawing 1, in order it prepares the plan of books which contains the page layout of books in the communication line 5 concerned, an editing task, and other appearance in the self-publication system 100 concerned concerning this invention for the reason, also being connected through the information terminal 11 which has the communication facility which the expert 10 concerned owns has the desirable expert 10 who is well versed for whether being any of the printing technology of books, or bookbinding technology.

[0027] on the other hand, the enterprise objects concerned in this invention are the publication enterprise object of a printing function and a bookbinding function which has at least any they are, i.e., a publishing company, and a bookbinding company — being desirable — the self-publication 2 concerned necessarily needs to be neither a publishing company nor a bookbinding company, and the thing of a printing function and a bookbinding function for which any are made into outsourcing form at least is also possible for it

[0028] Namely, the enterprise object 2 concerned receives the user who wishes the above-mentioned self-publication. You may be the business gestalt which offers service until it plans and edits the books of wanting [which the user concerned wishes] and calculates an estimated cost through a communication line 5. in that case The enterprise object 2 concerned may be constituted so that sample creation or the actual printing work of the books concerned may be commissioned to an external publication company or the external bookbinding company 12.

[0029] Therefore, as shown in drawing 1, the example in which 1 or two or more publication enterprise objects 12 which are different in the enterprise object 2 concerned are connected to the communication line 5 concerned through the information terminal 13 which has communication facility as another example of the self-publication system 100 concerned in this invention is shown.

[0030] On the other hand to the self-publication support system 6 concerned, further the user 4 concerned A predetermined operation is performed in the range of the conditions chosen with the self-publication support system 6 concerned. The sample about one or two or more sorts of page layouts is created, and the software shown to the user concerned may be incorporated. the user 4 concerned By choosing the program concerned, it is also possible to check on a screen and to make it choose from one or more samples which the self-publication support system 6 concerned creates.

[0031] In this invention, the enterprise object 2 concerned the self-publication system 6 concerned which is the content of service of self For example, when it opens to the public on the communication line 5 concerned through the homepage etc. and the user 4 has accessed the enterprise object 2 concerned After receiving payment of a predetermined charge from the user 4 concerned through the

predetermined accounting system 9, it is constituted so that it may permit downloading the self-publication support system 6 concerned to the information terminal 3 which the user 4 concerned owns.

[0032] And the user 4 concerned uses the information terminal 3 which self owns, uses the downloaded self-publication support system 6 concerned concerned, and becomes possible [checking the appearance and the estimated cost of books which want to publish self].

[0033] In the self-publication system 100 concerned concerning this invention, when there is a difference with the estimate of the publication costs of the books concerned which the self-publication support system 6 concerned computed, and the budget amount of self, as for the user 4 concerned, it is also desirable to be constituted so that it may be possible to correct the appearance and the estimated cost of books which want to publish the self concerned by amending each condition already set up in the self-publication support system 6 concerned.

[0034] On the other hand, when there is a difference with the estimate of the publication costs of the books concerned which the self-publication support system 6 concerned in this invention computed, and the budget amount of self of the user 4 concerned The self-publication support system 6 concerned answers the directions concerned, when the user concerned wishes and predetermined selection operation is performed. It is also desirable to be constituted so that each condition already set up in the self-publication support system 6 concerned may be corrected suitably and the estimated cost near coincidence or it may be computed in the budget amount of the user 4 concerned.

[0035] In addition, the self-publication support system 6 concerned used in this invention Once downloading to the information terminal 3 of the user 4 concerned When the predetermined period set beforehand, for example, 30 days or the user concerned, completes use of the self-publication support system 6 concerned (it contains when the processing concerned is stopped on the way), it is desirable to be constituted so that it may disappear automatically from the storage means of the information terminal 3 of the user [concerned] 4 concerned.

[0036] As for the print data about the predetermined books which the user concerned created in this invention on the other hand using the self-publication support system 6 concerned, it is desirable to be saved unless elimination operation beforehand set to the proper storage means which the enterprise object 2 concerned owns is performed.

[0037] Since a request of a reprint may occur by the case even if it is the books of self-publication, as for this, it is desirable on the cure to make it the predetermined period, for example, to keep it, for three years.

[0038] In addition, the self-publication support system 6 concerned used in this invention after completing payment on the enterprise object 2 concerned through the accounting system 9 concerned, the user 4 concerned a part of estimated cost [at least] determined through the self-publication support system 6 concerned

When the enterprise object 2 concerned is able to be checked, that the payment concerned is trustworthy The user 4 concerned transmits predetermined manuscript, photograph, and illustration to the enterprise object 2 ** concerned through the communication line 5 concerned, and the enterprise object 2 concerned stores the manuscripts concerned transmitted by the user 4 concerned in a predetermined storage means.

[0039] A photograph or an illustration concerned is also made unrelated to the manuscript concerned, and the manuscript which consists of digital data which the user 4 concerned transmits to the enterprise object 2 concerned in this invention can also transmit it, when you may be with the manuscript of **** whose user concerned himself may complete an arrangement and has not arranged at all to some extent and there is a photograph or an illustration in that case.

[0040] Then, while it arranges for every page from the manuscript concerned, a photograph, an illustration, etc., using a predetermined editor, and creating each page one by one with the enterprise object 2 concerned, preparing appearance and transmitting to the user 4 concerned When the user 4 concerned inspects the content of a manuscript for every page concerned transmitted from the enterprise object 2 concerned, it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction It is attached to the portion which corrects itself the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal 3 on self [user / concerned / 4], or has the hope of correction, and returns the enterprise object 2 concerned through a communication line 5, has the problem concerned, or has the hope of correction, a correction comment is attached, and the enterprise object 2 concerned is returned through a communication line 5.

[0041] With the enterprise object 2 concerned, while a predetermined transfer method is performed to the correction request from the user concerned, the starting processing operation will be repeated to the last page of the self-publication books concerned.

[0042] Also about this correction processing operation, the self-publication support system 6 concerned may be constituted so that the service which enables the user 4 concerned to receive advice of the expert about bookbinding of books may be offered.

[0043] Then, in the self-publication system 100 concerned concerning this invention, it was made to print out with the printing means 14 which was created, checked with a display means of the information terminal 3 by which the user 4 concerned owns correction and the sample of each page concerned which it corrected, or was connected to the information terminal 3 concerned of the user 4 concerned, and the user 4 concerned can be checked.

[0044] Subsequently, when there is consent of the user 4 concerned about all the pages about the books concerned, the self-publication support system 6 concerned is displayed on the information terminal 3 with which the user 4 concerned owns the menu for binding determination for determining a binding of the books concerned,

and it is also desirable to be constituted so that conditions required for the user 4 concerned to determine a binding out of the menu concerned can be chosen and specified.

[0045] Some items [at least], such as estimate of costs concerning [whether the printing position of the type of the character used for the design of a cover and a back cover, a title, a title, and an author name, a title, and an author name, a photograph, or an illustration is used, whether color printing is used, and] the quality of paper for a binding and a binding, are constituted hierarchical, and it is contained as the menu for binding determination concerned concerning this invention is shown also in

[0046] On the other hand, as for the enterprise object 2 concerned, in the self-publication support system 100 concerned in this invention, it is also still more desirable to be constituted so that the user 4 concerned may perform a predetermined operation in the range of the conditions chosen with the menu for binding determination concerned, the sample about one or two or more sorts of bindings may be created and the user concerned may be shown through the communication line concerned using mailing or a home delivery (registered trademark).

[0047] And the user 4 concerned inspects the content of a manuscript of the sample about the binding concerned transmitted from the enterprise object 2 concerned. When it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction [whether the user 4 concerned corrects himself the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal 3 of self, or has the hope of correction, and returns it to the enterprise object 2 concerned through a communication line 5, and] It is attached to the portion which has the problem concerned or has the hope of correction, a correction comment is attached, and the enterprise object 2 concerned is returned through a communication line 5, and it is constituted so that the predetermined correction concerned may be made with the enterprise object 2 concerned.

[0048] In addition, in the self-publication system 100 concerned, it was made to print out with the printing means 14 which was created, checked with a display means of the information terminal 3 by which the user 4 concerned owns the sample about correction and the binding concerned which it corrected, or was connected to the information terminal 3 concerned of the user 4 concerned, and the user 4 concerned can be checked.

[0049] Also in determination operation of the starting binding, about the correction processing operation concerned, the self-publication support system 6 concerned can also be constituted so that the service which enables the user 4 concerned to receive advice of the expert about bookbinding of books may be offered.

[0050] Subsequently, in the self-publication system 100 concerned, when the user 4 concerned has agreed with the composition of the binding concerned, the enterprise object 2 concerned is constituted so that it may send without concerned carrying

out printing bookbinding at least of the part for the sample 50 of books with the binding concerned, and minding [4] a communication line 5 based on the setting data concerned stored in the predetermined storage means which the enterprise object 2 concerned has.

[0051] subsequently, in the self-publication system 100 concerned in this invention When the user 4 concerned inspects the content of the sample of books including the binding concerned, it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction [whether the user 4 concerned corrects the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal 3 of self, or has the hope of correction on his information terminal 3 and returns it to the enterprise object 2 concerned through a communication line 5, and] It is attached to the portion which has the problem concerned or has the hope of correction, a correction comment is attached, the enterprise object 2 concerned is returned through a communication line 5, and the predetermined correction concerned is made with the enterprise object concerned.

[0052] Since the correction in the starting process turns into the second revision positive about the binding concerned, and the second revision positive about the content of the books concerned itself, a surcharge is added in many cases by any case.

[0053] Then, when there is no correction concerned, it is also possible to constitute so that the belt creation menu which creates the belt appended to the books concerned may be displayed on the information terminal 3 of the user 4 concerned.

[0054] It is desirable for at least one items, such as determination of the text used for the type of the character used [whether the belt concerned is attached and] for the appearance of the belt concerned, the design of the belt concerned, and the belt concerned and the belt concerned and an estimated cost, to contain in the belt creation menu concerned as the example is shown also in drawing 2 .

[0055] As for the enterprise object 2 concerned, it is [in / the self-publication system 6 concerned] also desirable to be constituted so that the user 4 concerned may perform a predetermined operation in the range of the conditions chosen with the belt creation menu concerned, may create the sample about one or two or more sorts of belts and may show the user 4 concerned.

[0056] And the user 4 concerned inspects the content of a manuscript of the sample about the belt concerned transmitted from the enterprise object 2 concerned. When it judges whether it is satisfactory, and there is a problem or there is hope of correction [whether the user concerned corrects himself the portion which has the problem concerned at the information terminal of self, or has the hope of correction, and returns it to the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and] It is attached to the portion which has the problem concerned or has the hope of correction, a correction comment is attached, the enterprise object concerned is returned through a communication line, and the predetermined correction concerned is made with the enterprise object concerned.

[0057] Then, in the self-publication system 100 concerned, it was made to print out with the printing means 14 which was created, checked with a display means of the information terminal 3 by which the user concerned owns the sample about correction and the belt concerned which it corrected, or was connected to the information terminal 3 concerned of the user 4 concerned, and the user 4 concerned can be checked.

[0058] In the self-publication system 100 concerned in this invention, when the user 4 concerned has agreed with the created belt, the enterprise object 2 concerned may be constituted based on the setting data concerned stored in the predetermined storage means which the enterprise object 2 concerned has so that it may send without concerned printing at least a part for the sample 60 of the belt concerned, and minding [4] a communication line 5.

[0059] When the user concerned has finally agreed with the composition of the books concerned including the binding concerned, and a belt Determine all the self-publication costs required for the enterprise object 2 concerned to print and bind a book for predetermined number of copies of the books concerned, and the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user concerned has already paid provisionally from the self-publication costs concerned is shown to the user 4 concerned. It judges whether the user concerned agrees with the costs concerned. the enterprise object 2 concerned Although the books 40 are sent to the user 4 concerned by mailing or the home delivery after it starts execution of printing bookbinding of the books concerned after being able to check the payment by the user 4 concerned, or after checking that the payment is trustworthy, and the books 40 concerned are completed When the user 4 concerned cannot agree with the adjusted amount concerned, it returns to which the above-mentioned menu, and it is constituted so that the adjusted amount concerned may be settled in the budget of the user concerned, and change of a required setup and correction may be performed.

[0060] As other examples in the self-publication system 100 concerned in this invention The enterprise object 2 concerned is constituted so that it may connect with two or more external publication enterprise objects 12 of the printing function concerned and a bookbinding function which have at least any they are through the communication line 5 concerned. When the request of the self-publication concerned has the enterprise object 2 concerned from the user 4 concerned, each menu conditions concerned of the self-publication books concerned are shown to each external publication enterprise object 12. An estimate is individually submitted from each external publication enterprise object 12, and it is also possible to be constituted so that the external publication enterprise object 12 concerned which presented the underestimation frame most may be commissioned to printing and bookbinding of the self-publication books concerned out of it.

[0061] Next, the example of the self-publication method concerned concerning this invention is explained in detail, referring to a drawing.

[0062] Namely, the self-publication method concerned which starts this invention by the above-mentioned explanation so that clearly The enterprise object 2 which has the information terminal which has communication facility, and makes printing issue of books main business fundamentally as shown in drawing 3, The user 4 who wishes to have the information terminal which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense It is mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line 5. to the communication line 5 concerned In the communication system to which the predetermined accounting system 9 is connected the enterprise object 2 concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal 3 concerned which the user 4 concerned owns based on the content and composition of the books which the user 4 concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation The appearance of self-publication books for which the user 4 concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount calculate for a short time. It has a storage means 7 to build in the self-publication support system 6 constituted so that the result could be displayed on the display means of the information terminal 3 of the user 4 concerned. As opposed to the user 4 concerned to whom the enterprise object 2 concerned has accessed offering printing / bookbinding service of self-publication books at the 1st process (step (S1)) opened to a website, and the enterprise object 2 concerned The 2nd process which charges a predetermined charge through the predetermined accounting system 9 concerned (step (S2)), When the user 4 concerned pays a predetermined charge or it is judged that the payment is trustworthy The 3rd process which it permits downloading to the information terminal 3 concerned with which the user 4 concerned owns the portion especially about edit of an appearance portion among the self-publication support systems 6 concerned to the user 4 concerned (step (S3)), The estimated cost of the appearance about the books which self wishes to have [the user 4 concerned] using the self-publication support system 6 concerned, and an estimated cost calculates. The 4th process (step (S4)) which stands by during the period when the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object 2 concerned When the user 4 concerned has agreed with the determination of the self-publication support system 6 concerned All or the 5th process which performs a part of the claims of payment to the user concerned at least (step (S5)) of the estimated estimated costs concerned, When the user concerned performs payment of the amount billed concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The manuscript with which the enterprise object concerned is used for the self-publication books concerned to the user concerned, The 6th process demanded so that manuscripts, such as a photograph and an illustration, may be transmitted through the communication line concerned (step (S6)), The enterprise object 2 concerned uses the predetermined editor defined beforehand based on various kinds of conditions about the appearance of the books concerned with which the user 4

concerned chose and determined the manuscripts concerned which received. The 7th process (step (S7)) which starts an editing task, and the enterprise object 2 concerned The process (step (S8)) of the octavus which transmits to the user concerned through the communication line concerned, and the user 4 concerned each page of the galley version of the edited books concerned It is attached to each page of the galley version of the transmitted books concerned, and tic work is done. when correction or change needs to be corrected [whether the galley version concerned is corrected itself / concerned / user / at the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns, and] The 9th process at which the correction matter concerned is transmitted to the enterprise object concerned through the communication line concerned, and the enterprise object concerned receives it (step (S9)), [whether based on the correction request information from the user 4 concerned, it corrects to the galley version concerned with the enterprise object 2 concerned, and] The 10th process which makes the storage means memorize the signed-off Mino galley version returned by the user concerned (step (S10)), When it is attached to all the pages about the galley version of the books concerned and there is consent of the user 4 concerned The enterprise object 2 concerned the binding determination menu which determines a binding of the books concerned contained in the self-publication support system concerned The 11th process (step (S11)) which accepts download, and the user 4 concerned use the binding determination menu concerned for the information terminal 3 of the user 4 concerned. The appearance of a binding and the estimated cost of an estimated cost about the books which self wishes to have calculate. The 12th process (step (S12)) which stands by during the period when the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object 2 concerned When the user 4 concerned has agreed with the determination of the binding determination menu concerned about the binding concerned The 13th process which creates the sample of the books including the binding concerned concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned (step (S13)), Although same operation is performed by any of the enterprise object concerned or the user concerned with having returned and described above at which the above-mentioned process concerned when the user concerned does not agree to the sample concerned When the user concerned has agreed to the sample concerned The 14th process which performs terminal decision attached to the circulation of the books concerned among enterprise objects and the users concerned concerned (step (S14)), Based on the circulation of the books [concerned] concerned finally determined, the self-publication support system concerned Calculate the final synthesis costs about publication of the books concerned, and the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user 4 concerned already paid for the enterprise object concerned from the result of an operation is calculated. The 15th process (step (S15)) of which the user 4 concerned is notified, and the user 4 concerned mind the accounting system 9 concerned. When the adjusted amount

concerned is paid or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy The enterprise object 2 concerned is attached to the books concerned, and consists of the 16th process (step (S16)) which performs printing and bookbinding of determined number of copies concerned, and the 17th process (step (S17)) which sends the completed books 40 concerned to the user 4 concerned.

[0063] In the above-mentioned self-publication method in this invention, it is also desirable to be constituted so that the user 4 concerned may perform a predetermined operation to the self-publication support system 6 concerned further in the range of the conditions chosen with the self-publication support system 6 concerned, one or two or more sorts of page layouts or the sample about a binding may be created and the user 4 concerned may be shown.

[0064] As shown in the self-publication support system 6 concerned at drawing 4 , between the 13th process concerned and the 14th process furthermore, the enterprise object 2 concerned The belt creation menu which creates the belt appended to the books concerned contained in the self-publication support system 6 concerned The 13th (A) process (step (S13A)) which accepts download, and the user 4 concerned use the belt determination menu concerned for the information terminal of the user concerned. The appearance of a belt and the estimated cost of an estimated cost which are appended to the books which self wishes to have calculate. The 13th (B) process (step (S13B)) which stands by during the period when the user 4 concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned, and the enterprise object 2 concerned When the user 4 concerned has agreed with the determination of the belt determination menu concerned about the belt concerned When the user concerned does not agree to the 13th (C) process (step (S13C)) which creates the sample of the belt concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned, and the sample concerned [whether a user amends the appearance conditions of the belt concerned personally or he transmits the draft amendment to the enterprise object 2, and] or the sample by the self-publication support system 6 concerned is required [whether advice by the pro is received, and] -- the 13th (D) process (step (S13D)) that which those menu or two or more menus are performed -- Then, when the user concerned has agreed to the sample concerned, the process that the 13th (E) process (step (S13E)) which the appearance of the belt concerned is determined and is memorized for the predetermined storage means is performed may be added.

[0065] In addition, as for the request of advice by the above-mentioned expert, in the self-publication method concerned concerning this invention, it is desirable to constitute so that it can be used in any stage of each above-mentioned process.

[0066] Of course, the charge to the advice result by the expert concerned cannot be overemphasized by changing with the contents.

[0067] The example of the more concrete operating procedure of the self-publication system concerned concerning the above-mentioned this invention is explained referring to drawing 5 and drawing 6 .

[0068] Namely, in a step (ST-), the enterprise object 2 concerned exhibits the self-publication system service of the enterprise object 2 concerned by the homepage etc. after a start. When the user who wishes to self-publish accesses the homepage concerned in a step (ST-2), the enterprise object 2 concerned The user concerned is asked for a predetermined charge in a step (ST-3). When there is predetermined payment from the user concerned in a step (ST-4), in a step (ST-5), the selection determination software of an appearance portion is downloaded to the information terminal of the user 4 concerned especially among the software of the self-publication support system which the enterprise object 2 concerned owns.

[0069] Then, in a step (ST-6), it is desirable to use the self-publication support system concerned by the user 4 side, to perform selection / specification operation about each condition item according to a predetermined menu [page / each / of the books concerned], and to display the sample about primary appearance, and it is desirable to also display the estimated cost of an estimated cost again.

[0070] In a step (ST-7), it is judged whether the user concerned asks for a pro's advice, if it is YES, will progress to a step (ST-8), and a demand of the user concerned is received. A predetermined expert creates a predetermined proposal and return to a step (ST-6), and if it is NO at a step (ST-7), it will progress to a step (ST-9). It is judged whether the user concerned uses the sample as which the enterprise object 2 concerned was determined beforehand and which is offered, and if it is YES, it will set to a step (ST-10). the enterprise object 2 concerned With reference to specification of the user concerned and each selected conditions, the program which the enterprise object 2 concerned has prepared beforehand is used. Create at least one desirable sample, indicate to a user, and return to a step (ST-6), each above-mentioned process obtains in Japanese common chestnut, and is carried out, and if it is NO at a step (ST-9) In judging whether the user concerned corrects personally or a draft amendment is transmitted to an enterprise object and correcting personally in a step (ST-11) it being alike, it returning to a step (ST-6), and it being judged whether a user agrees to the contents of edit to which each above-mentioned process obtains in Japanese common chestnut, is carried out, and is attached to each page of the books concerned once completed in the step (ST-12), and, if it is NO Each process which returned to the step (ST-6) and was described above is repeated, if it is YES, it will progress to a step (ST-13), the estimated amount of money which edit of the appearance concerned takes will be computed, and a user will be charged.

[0071] Then, in a step (ST-14) [whether a part of estimated rough amount of money / at least / concerned was inputted from the user concerned, and] case payment is trustworthy -- a step (ST-15) -- progressing -- the user concerned to a manuscript (a manuscript --) etc. Transmission of a photograph, an illustration, etc. is received, and in a step (ST-16), the enterprise object 2 conc rned performs the editing task of each page using a predetermined editor, referring to the appearance conditions already determined based on the manuscript concerned etc.

[0072] Then, in a step (ST-17), the galley proof of each page of the books concerned is transmitted to the user concerned through a communication line 5, the user concerned prints out the galley proof concerned in a step (ST-18) using the printing machine connected to the user side information terminal, and the content is checked.

[0073] It progresses to a step (ST-19) and judges whether correction has the user concerned about the galley proof concerned, or there is nothing. subsequently, in with correction (YES) It progresses to a step (ST-20), each notifies the manuscript which the user concerned directed the correction part on the enterprise object concerned, or corrected for the user itself concerned to the enterprise object concerned through a communication line, and each process returned and described above to the step (ST-16) is repeated.

[0074] In addition, in the starting step (ST-20), it is also possible to charge the sample which a pro's advice or the enterprise object concerned offers like a step (ST-7) and a step (ST-9).

[0075] Subsequently, in a step (ST-21), it is judged whether there is any correction about all pages, if it is NO, will return to a step (ST-19), and if it is YES, it will progress to a step (ST-22). After making a user side information terminal download the setting system about a binding among the self-publication support systems concerned, it progresses to a step (ST-23) and selection / specification operation of the appearance about the binding concerned by the user concerned is performed.

[0076] Then, in a step (ST-24), it is judged whether the user concerned asks for a pro's advice, if it is YES, will progress to a step (ST-25), and a demand of the user concerned is received. A predetermined expert creates a predetermined proposal and return to a step (ST-23), and if it is NO at a step (ST-24), it will progress to a step (ST-26). It is judged whether the user concerned uses the sample as which the enterprise object 2 concerned was determined beforehand and which is offered, and if it is YES, it will set to a step (ST-27). the enterprise object 2 concerned With reference to specification of the user concerned and each selected conditions, the program which the enterprise object 2 concerned has prepared beforehand is used. Create at least one sample about a desirable binding, indicate to a user, and return to a step (ST-23), each above-mentioned process obtains in Japanese common chestnut, and is carried out, and if it is NO at a step (ST-26) In judging whether the user concerned corrects personally or a draft amendment is transmitted to an enterprise object and correcting personally in a step (ST-28) When it returns to a step (ST-23), and each above-mentioned process obtains in Japanese common chestnut, it is carried out and there is no correction in a step (ST-28) Progress to a step (ST-29) and it is judged whether a user agrees to the content of edit attached to the binding concerned completed once, and if it is NO Each process which returned to the step (ST-23) and was described above is repeated, and if it is YES Progress to a step (ST-30) and unify the sample of the binding concerned, and the sample of each page from which consent is obtained at the aforementioned process,

and create at least a part and a comprehensive sample is sent to the user concerned. When it is judged in a step (ST-31) whether a user agrees to the sample concerned and it cannot agree Each process again returned and described above to the step (ST-23) or the step (ST-19) is repeated, if it is YES, it will progress to a step (ST-32) and, finally the circulation of the books concerned will be determined. [0077] Then, it progresses to a step (ST-33) and user side information terminal download of the ZA concerned is carried out for the self-publication support system about a belt, in a step (ST-34), the estimated rough amount of the belt concerned is determined at the same time determination operation of the appearance of a belt is performed by the user concerned, and the editing task is performed in the enterprise object concerned.

[0078] Subsequently, progress to a step (ST-35), it is judged whether the user concerned asks for a pro's advice, if it is YES, will progress to a step (ST-36), and a demand of the user concerned is received. A predetermined expert creates a predetermined proposal and return to a step (ST-34), and if it is NO at a step (ST-35), it will progress to a step (ST-37). It is judged whether the user concerned uses the sample as which the enterprise object 2 concerned was determined beforehand and which is offered, and if it is YES, it will set to a step (ST-38). the enterprise object 2 concerned With reference to specification of the user concerned and each selected conditions, the program which the enterprise object 2 concerned has prepared beforehand is used. Create at least one sample about a desirable binding, indicate to a user, and return to a step (ST-34), each above-mentioned process obtains in Japanese common chestnut, and is carried out, and if it is NO at a step (ST-37) In judging whether the user concerned corrects personally or a draft amendment is transmitted to an enterprise object and correcting personally in a step (ST-39) When it returns to a step (ST-34), and each above-mentioned process obtains in Japanese common chestnut, it is carried out and there is no correction in a step (ST-39) When it progresses to a step (ST-40) and a user cannot agree with the data of the appearance of the created binding concerned Each process which returned to the step (ST-34) and was described above is repeated, and if it is YES When the sample of the belt concerned is created in a step (ST-41), it sends to the user concerned and a user cannot agree in a step (ST-42) Each process which returned to the step (ST-34) and was described above is repeated, if it is YES, it will progress to a step (ST-43), a final settlement-of-accounts amount of money will be computed, and a user will be notified of the result at a step (ST-44).

[0079] Then, in a step (ST-45), after it is checked that the user concerned has paid the settlement-of-accounts amount of money concerned, in a step (ST-46), printing and bookbinding of the books of predetermined number of copies are performed, and in a step (ST-47), the books concerned are sent to the user concerned and it ends.

[0080] In the self-publication method concerned concerning this invention, oneself owns the application software for having at least any they are and a printing function or a bookbinding function performing a menu and the menu concerned concerned

and, and the enterprise object 2 concerned is constituted so that it may process by outsourcing, and the enterprise object 2 concerned may have the printing function concerned and a bookbinding function.

[0081] In the self-publication method [in / this invention / on the other hand] concerned The enterprise object 2 concerned is constituted so that it may connect with two or more external publication enterprise objects 12 of the printing function concerned and a bookbinding function which have at least any they are through the communication line 5 concerned. When the request of the self-publication concerned has the enterprise object 2 concerned from the user 4 concerned, each menu conditions concerned of the self-publication books concerned are shown to each external publication enterprise object 12. It is also possible to constitute so that the external publication enterprise object 12 concerned which was made to submit an estimate from each external publication enterprise object 12, and presented the cheapest estimated cost out of it may be commissioned to printing and bookbinding of the self-publication books concerned.

[0082] Moreover, the enterprise object which has the information terminal which has communication facility as other modes in this invention, and makes printing issue of books main business, The user who wishes to have the information terminal which has communication facility, and to publish books at his own expense It is mutually arranged possible [connection] through the proper communication line. to the communication line concerned In the communication system to which the predetermined accounting system is connected the enterprise object concerned By performing processing operation which operates the information terminal concerned which the user concerned owns based on the content and composition of the books which the user concerned wants to self-publish, and chooses required conditions by dialogic operation The appearance of self-publication books for which the user concerned wishes, and the costs estimated rough amount calculate for a short time. The 1st process, [0083] by which it has a storage means to build in the self-publication support system constituted so that the result could be displayed on the display means of the information terminal of the user concerned, and the enterprise object concerned opens offering printing / bookbinding service of self-publication books to a website The 2nd process, [0084] which charge a predetermined charge through the predetermined accounting system concerned to the user concerned who has accessed the enterprise object concerned The 3rd process, [0085] which permit downloading to the information terminal concerned with which the user concerned owns the self-publication support system concerned to the user concerned when the user concerned pays a predetermined charge or it is judged that the payment is trustworthy The 4th process, [0086] to which the user concerned stands by during the period when the estimated cost of the appearance about the self books to wish to have and an estimated cost calculates in using the self-publication support system concerned, and the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned The enterprise object concerned is all of the estimated

estimated costs concerned or the 5th process which performs a part of the claims of payment to the user concerned at least, and [0087], when the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the self-publication support system concerned. The enterprise object concerned is [as opposed to / the user concerned / when the user concerned performs payment of the amount billed concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy] the 6th process which demands manuscripts, such as a manuscript used for the self-publication books concerned, a photograph, and an illustration, so that it may transmit through the communication line concerned, and [0088]. The 7th process, [0089] to which the enterprise object concerned uses the predetermined editor defined beforehand based on various kinds of conditions about the appearance of the books concerned with which the user concerned chose and determined the manuscripts concerned which received, and starts an editing task. The enterprise object concerned is the process of the octavus which transmits each page of the galley version of the edited books concerned to the user concerned through the communication line concerned, and [0090]. It is the 9th process at which the user concerned takes the side of each page of the galley version of the transmitted books concerned, and does tic work, and it corrects at the information terminal concerned at which the user concerned owns the galley version concerned himself [concerned / user] when correction or change needs to be corrected, or the correction matter concerned is transmitted to the enterprise object concerned through the communication line concerned, and the enterprise object concerned receives it, and [0091]. The 10th process, [0092] which make the storage means memorize the signed-off Mino galley version which corrected to the galley version concerned with the enterprise object concerned based on the correction request information from the user concerned, or was returned by the user concerned. It is the 11th process which accepts for download the binding determination menu which determines a binding of the books concerned with which the enterprise object concerned is included in the self-publication support system concerned in the information terminal of the user concerned when it is attached to all the pages about the galley version of the books concerned and there is consent of the user concerned, and [0093]. The 12th process, [0094] to which the user concerned stands by during the period when the binding determination menu concerned is used in, the appearance of a binding and the estimated cost of an estimated cost about the self books to wish to have calculate in, and the user concerned gives consent to the result of an operation concerned. The enterprise object concerned is the 13th process which creates the sample of the books including the binding concerned concerned in part at least, and is sent to the user concerned when the user concerned has agreed with the determination of the binding determination menu concerned about the binding concerned, and [0095]. The 14th process, [0096] which perform terminal decision attached to the circulation of the books concerned among enterprise objects and the users concerned concerned when the user concerned

has agreed to the sample concerned, although same operation was performed by any of the enterprise object concerned or the user concerned with having returned and described above at which the above-mentioned process concerned when the user concerned had not agreed to the sample concerned The 15th process, [0097] of which the self-publication support system concerned calculates the final synthesis costs about publication of the books concerned, calculates the adjusted amount which subtracted the amount of money which the user concerned already paid for the enterprise object concerned from the result of an operation, and notifies the user concerned based on the circulation of the books [concerned] concerned finally determined It is the 16th process which the enterprise object concerned is attached to the books concerned when the user concerned pays the adjusted amount concerned through the accounting system concerned or it is judged that the execution to pay is trustworthy, and performs printing and bookbinding of determined number of copies concerned, and [0098]. And the 17th process, [0099] which send the completed books concerned to the user concerned It is the record medium which recorded the program for performing the self-publication method by which shell composition is carried out by computer.

[0100]

[Effect of the Invention] since the technical composition which described above has adopted, the self-publication method concerned concerning this invention and the self-publication system concerned are the self-publication system profit **** things which can also check the estimate of the costs which can determine [whether it is also ** or] the appearance of books easily and efficiently at a house, and self-publication takes to self-publish desired books in an individual as the 1st effect

[0101] Moreover, while being able to experience the temper from which the individual concerned became the writer of an end, a writer, and a photographer as the 2nd effect, the books concerned can be distributed as a certain souvenir.

[0102] furthermore, it becomes possible to be able to reduce a risk and to undertake an efficient enterprise rather than it becomes possible to manufacture the existing book which is an income certainly also as a publishing company as the 3rd effect and manufactures the book which cannot be sold

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing 1 is a block diagram which shows the composition of one example of the self-publication system of this invention.

[Drawing 2] Drawing 2 is drawing showing an example of the menu used with the self-publication support system concerned in the self-publication system of this invention.

[Drawing 3] Drawing 3 is a flow chart explaining an example of the operating procedure in the self-publication method in this invention.

[Drawing 4] Drawing 4 is a flow chart explaining an example of the operating procedure in the self-publication method in this invention.

[Drawing 5] Drawing 5 is a flow chart explaining an example of the operating procedure in one example of the self-publication method in this invention.

[Drawing 6] Drawing 6 is a flow chart explaining an example of the operating procedure in one example of the self-publication method in this invention.

[Description of Notations]

1 -- An enterprise object side information terminal, ASP

2 -- Enterprise object

3 -- User side information terminal

4 -- User

5 -- Communication line

6 -- Self-publication support system

7 -- Storage means

8 -- Control means

9 -- Accounting system

10 -- Expert

11 -- Expert side information terminal

12 -- A publishing company, a bookbinding company, printing company

13 -- Publishing company and bookbinding company side and printing company side information terminal

14 -- Printer

100 -- Self-publication system

[Translation done.]

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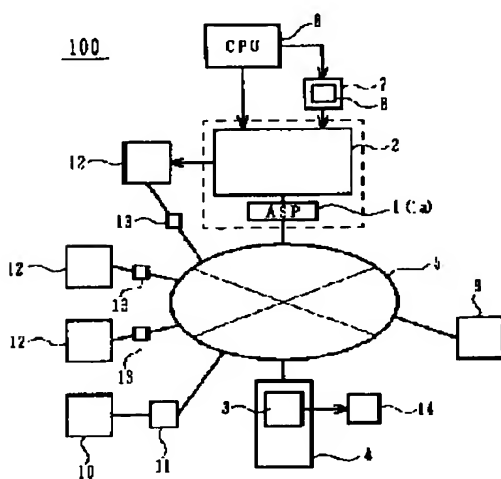
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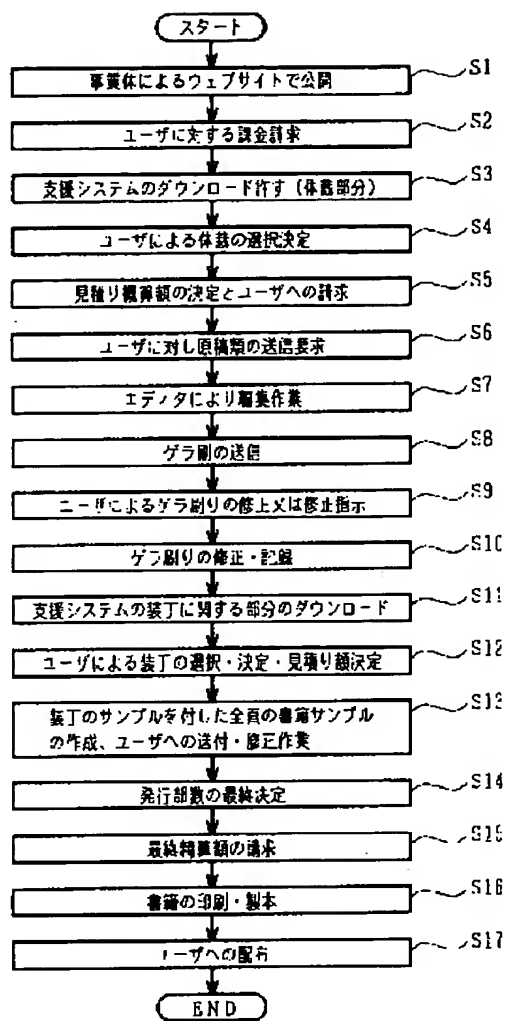
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DRAWINGS

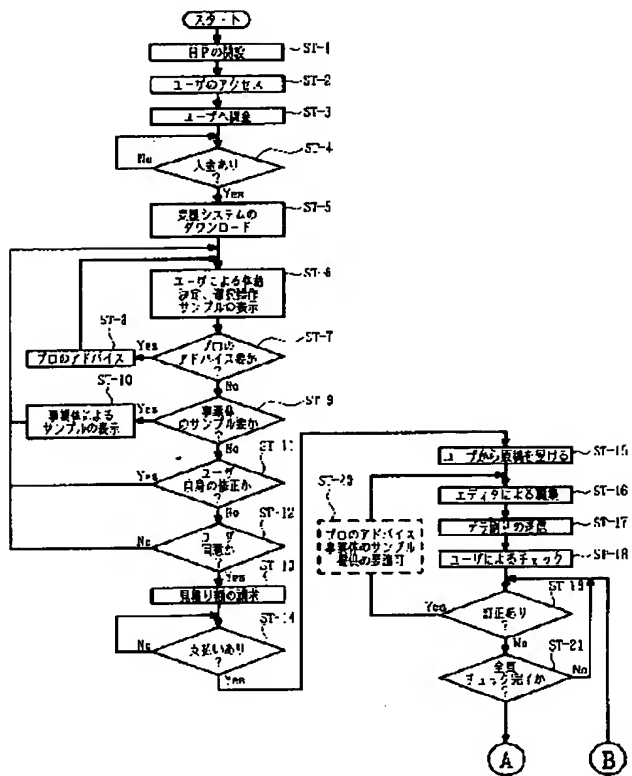
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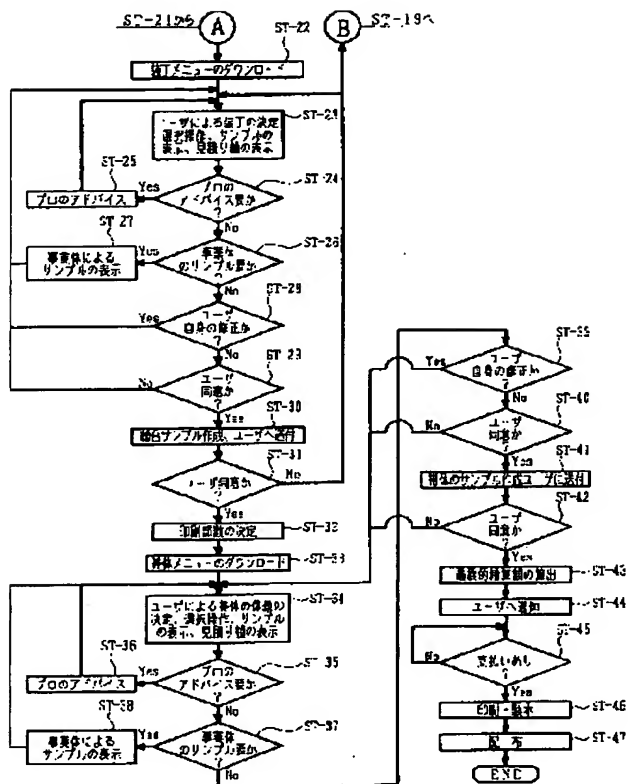
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 2]



[Drawing 6]



[Translation done.]